MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 JANUARY 1982

Haig Tour

Autonomy Talks -- IDF radio reported that in talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other Foreign Ministry officials, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig opened with "difficult" questions including the issue of voting rights for east Jerusalem's Arabs in the autonomy institutions. In addition to supplying Haig with detailed answers, the Israeli side stated that if he wanted further clarifications they would be supplied by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Israel's "greatest expert on autonomy affairs."

According to the radio, during his talks with Israeli officials Haig emphasized that there is no target date for concluding the autonomy negotiations, but that an effort should be made to reach "some kind of an agreement" before April. The radio cited the "Israeli evaluation" that Egypt still does not intend to reach an agreement in principle before the Sinai withdrawal is completed.

Jerusalem television reported that at his first meeting with Haig, Begin presented an Israeli document specifying all of Israel's proposals on autonomy. The television added that the Israeli-Egyptian differences on autonomy persist, and that at a later stage the United States intends to present its own ideas to promote the autonomy talks and to involve other countries.

IDF radio reported that Shamir spoke at a working dinner about Israel's "apprehensions" regarding various developments in Egypt. The radio cited Haig as expressing the view that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak intends to continue the peace process. In comments broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Shamir said the memorandum on strategic cooperation was not raised during the discussions, which focused instead on autonomy and other bilateral issues regarding future relations in the context of the peace process. Shamir said he had no doubt that the Haig visit will improve U.S.-Israeli relations.

Jerusalem radio reported that chairman of the Israeli team to the autonomy talks Yosef Burg stated after a 15 January meeting with Haig that the U.S. secretary will return within about 3 weeks for another round of talks in Jerusalem and Cairo in order to accelerate the negotiations. Burg also said that Israel does not accept Egypt's contention that Jordan should join the talks at this point.

Sharon on Lebanon, MFO -- Jerusalem radio reported that in a meeting with Haig, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon repeated his "promise" that Israel does not intend to engage in military actions in Lebanon or Syria. Sharon supplied Haig with details on the Palestinians' deployment in Lebanon and stressed that they are repeatedly violating the cease-fire. According to the radio, Sharon also pointed out that Israel would "no longer accept" a war of attrition in the north. In another report Jerusalem radio cited Sharon as reiterating Israel's demand that the "terrorist" organizations and long-range weapons be removed from the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Jerusalem radio also reported that at a later Haig-Sharon meeting Israel demanded that the multinational force due to supervise the peace agreement in Sinai establish a permanent position on the island of Tiran in order not only to stop Egypt from handing it over to Saudi Arabia but also to prevent a blockade of the strait. According to the radio, Egypt has informed Haig that it intends to set up a police station on Tiran, but Israel does not regard this as sufficient.

Egyptian Commentary -- A commentary broadcast by Cairo radio said Secretary Haig's visit to Egypt was useful because it helped define the differences between Israel and Egypt on the question of Palestinian autonomy. However, the commentary stressed, it is even more important that the United States adopt a clear and constructive stand on the Palestinian issue after learning of the Israeli position. It said the United States must do everything

it can to remove the obstacles to a solution in view of its great influence on Israel. Unclear stands, the commentary concluded, impede efforts for peace notwithstanding the fact that the chances for peace are now "better than ever before."

Jordanian, Gulf Comment -- An AD-DUSTUR editorial reviewed by Amman radio asserted that Haig's efforts to revive the autonomy negotiations have failed and that Israel will be "forced" to change its stand only if and when the United States decides to play the role of responsible partner in the negotiations rather than remaining an "onlooker." According to AD-DUSTUR, the U.S. position will not change until it is subject to real Arab pressure, but the Arabs, "as usual, are incapable of making war or peace."

WAM noted the Dubayy daily AL-BAYAN's opinion that Haig's visit can yield no positive results because the Arabs, having failed to adopt a well-defined stand of their own, cannot push the United States to pressure Israel on the issue of Palestinian autonomy. WAKH reported that the Qatari newspaper GULF TIMES belittled Haig's visit to the region, asserting that U.S. policy has nothing new to offer. The UAE paper AL-KHALIJ denounced recent statements by Haig on Palestinian autonomy as a continuation of U.S. political and military hegemony in the Middle East, WAM reported.

Syria

Khaddam in Moscow -- SANA reported that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held talks in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. According to TASS, the two sides consulted on the Middle East situation in accordance with the Soviet-Syrian treaty of friendship and cooperation. SANA noted that APN issued a commentary on Khaddam's visit, condemning Israel's decision to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights and supporting the Syrian call for the UN Security Council to "punish" Israel.

Al-Asad Speech -- President Hafiz al-Asad told the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee that Syria has so far managed to stop the implementation of the Camp David "scheme" and that U.S. officials no longer believe they can end the Arab-Israeli conflict by following "a path that is not being followed by Syria," Damascus radio reported. He added that for Egypt the Camp David accords led to capitulation rather than liberation or peace.

Clashes Reported -- According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, nine Syrian officers and soldiers were killed during clashes with Muslim Brotherhood members in Aleppo on 13 January. It added that clashes had also occurred in Homs and Hamah and that Soviet experts have been threatened with death if they do not leave Syria.

Jordan

Protest to Syria -- Amman radio reported that the Foreign Ministry handed the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman an official memo denouncing the 11 January explosion in an Amman grocery store, in which Jordan claims a Syrian diplomat was involved.

Husayn-Fatah Meeting -- Citing the Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, MENA reported that King Husayn recently held a meeting with Fatah representatives during which he told them that Jordan cannot open its borders to fedayeen activity.

Sudan

SUNA reported that Maj Gen Qasam Allah 'Abdallah Rasas, chairman of the higher transitional executive council of southern Sudan, will preside over a conference of governors of the southern region's provinces on 15 January. Damascus radio had alleged that Rasas was assassinated on 13 January by opposition elements in the south.

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The FBIS DAILY REPORT for 14 January 1982, No. 009, was not published.

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VOP EXAMINES PURPOSE OF HAIG VISIT TO REGION

JN131931 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1809 GMT 13 Jan 82

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] Will Haig personally participate in the autonomy negotiations? Or will he be represented by a high-ranking official from the U.S. State Department? What is the significance of such a broad U.S. intrusion after the autonomy negotiations have been stalemated for a long time?

To answer these questions, we must first determine the point of central importance to Haig, since it is in light of this that we can understand all realities pertaining to his new move.

It seems that the point of central importance is to control the game between Egypt and Israel and safeguard the progress of this game within the U.S. framework. This is particularly important at a time when the region is in a state of an apprehensive and sensitive expectation of the results of Camp David on the Egyptian front, since these results will crystallize next April, the date set for the Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the Camp David accords.

Although Haig's intensive participation in the negotiations process comes under the heading of working to make a success of an autonomy agreement, the major mission is to control the situation between Egypt and Israel and avert any surprises that may complicate the Camp David process or hamper the withdrawal process and affect the entire region.

This is clear from the connection between Haig's current visit to Egypt and the declaration of the approaching date for the European states' official participation in the multinational force, since their participation is one of the most important guarantees for Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and, consequently, accomplishing the Egyptian part of the Camp David process.

Haig may be able to reach a formula for agreement on autonomy between Egypt and Israel. However, he is aware that such a formula will remain mere ink on paper, since its purpose would not be to achieve a solution for the Palestinian issue but to pave the way for solving the Sinai issue and nothing else.

Thus, the general impression received from Haig's visit, in light of announcements on this visit through his talks with top Egyptian officials, is that the U.S. administration is in practice trying to safeguard the threads of the Camp David game according to the path drawn up in Carter's era and that it is pushing Haig personally to work to avert surprises, thus paving the way for a strategic U.S. unanimity which the U.S. administration wants to achieve in the region under its supervision. The autonomy issue or any solution for the Palestinian issue, would be mere window dressing to embellish the Americans' game. At any rate, this flimsy facade can never be transformed into a base for solving the most complicated problem in contemporary history: the Palestinian problem.

VOP WELCOMES END OF NABULUS UNIVERSITY CONFLICT

NC131358 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has made the following statement: All Palestinians were pleased when the previous differences at An-Najah al-Wataniyah University in Nabulus were settled. It was agreed to settle the casual problem affecting the university by announcing the formation of a new board of directors.

The source added: When life returned to normal at the university, a new painful incident occurred. This incident exceeded all norms and popular traditions, as it constituted an aggression against the university's inviolability. All sincere sons of our people are aware of the seriousness of the incident. The conflict must be ended immediately because it exceeds the limits of our national interest and disrupts the struggle against the Zionist enemy, who is trying day and night to perpetuate the autonomy plot.

The responsible Palestinian source said: In view of the seriousness of this incident, the sincere sons of our people believe that:

1. The incident must be dealt with immediately and the university Board of Directors must exercise its responsibility.

2. Direct measures must be taken to try those who caused the violent incidents. Everybody supports the action of taking the aggressor, whoever he may be, to account.

3. Efforts must continue for a comprehensive national reconciliation in Nabulus, overcoming all the gaps so that the city may once again assume its leading struggling position in the national challenge and resistance to the occupation.

4. Everybody must adhere to the spirit of fraternal cooperation and democratic dialogue in tackling the issues primarily by confronting the Zionist enemy -- who is trying to foment conflicts and domestic problems -- through the principles of national commitment and the democratic system, free from anything that may further the differences.

'ARAFAT BLAMES U.S., ZIONISTS FOR MURDER

JN131711 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visited the Algerian Embassy in Lebanon at noon today to offer condolences on the martyrdom of Minister Plenipotentiary at the Embassy Rabah Kheroua, who was the victim of a criminal incident in Beirut this morning.

Brother Abu 'Ammar was received by the Algerian ambassador and military charge. The Algerian ambassador asserted that, as is its custom, Algeria says what the Palestinians say and only accepts what they accept.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said this heinous crime, which was directed against Algeria's symbol, was committed to make a grave point at this grave stage. Indeed, it is a threat and is part of the big U.S.-Zionist plot against the Palestinians, Lebanese and the region.

Sends Condolences Message

NC140856 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The leader of the PLO's Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a message of condolences to the Algerian president on the martyrdom of the minister plenipotentiary at the Algerian Embassy in Lebanon, Rabah Kheroua, who was assassinated yesterday by treacherous hands.

BAHRAIN

VISITING GCC HEAD CALLS FOR SECURITY NETWORK

GF140610 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Manama, 13 Jan (WAKH) -- 'Abdallah Bisharah, Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] secretary general, arrived here from Kuwait this eveing on a visit to Bahrain that will last a few days. The visit comes at the invitation of the Bahraini Engineers Society, and he will attend the society's annual celebrations. During the celebrations, he will deliver a lecture entitled "The Gulf After the GCC."

During this visit, Mr Bisharah will also hold talks with Bahraini Government officials on issues pertaining to the GCC and the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Upon arrival, Mr Bisharah made a statement calling for the establishment of a protective security network following the discovery of the sabotage plot in Bahrain. He also called upon citizens not relax under the current economic progress in the region. He said: We will not be able to enjoy this progress without a security network.

He affirmed that contacts among GCC members have intensified recently and that citizens have become convinced that a GCC defense ministers conference must convene quickly and be followed by a GCC interior ministers conference. He announced that the GCC defense ministers conference has finally been scheduled for 25 January, and the GCC interior ministers conference will be held on 23 February. Both meetings will be held in Riyadh.

Mr Bisharah indicated that the GCC Secretariat is preparing proposals on security and political cooperation among GCC member countries. He said he hopes the secretariat will be able to finalize these proposals and distribute them to GCC members next week, so the interior ministers will be able to study them during their upcoming conference.

On the security agreement between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, he said: This agreement is not enough. The Gulf situation requires more than this.

He called for additional security and political agreements among members of the GCC, which he said provides security for the region.

Further Comments on Security

GF150950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Manama, 15 Jan (WAKH) -- Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and 'Ali al-Mahrus, head of the Bahraini Foreign Ministry's Political Department, attended the meeting.

In a statement to WAKH after the meeting, Bisharah said they discussed issues that will be put before the upcoming GCC defense ministers conference. He said the amir of Bahrain explained some of the points regarding the GCC interior ministers conference to be held in Riyadh next month.

Bisharah emphasized that Gulf security and stability cannot be achieved through preaching but through action and security and military coordination among GCC countries. Referring to the call for cooperation and vigilance Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah made in his press interview that was published yesterday, Bisharah declared: "I support this call that is primarily directed at the GCC, which should learn from what happened or almost happened."

Bisharah said the amir has sent a message to the GCC calling for vigilance and caution. Bisharah said the GCC has replied to this message and is now in the process of formulating ideas that will constitute the basis of Gulf security cooperation eliminating the weak points and strengthening the strong points.

Referring to his proposal for a security umbrella for GCC countries, Bisharah said a security umbrella means linking internal security forces with military institutions responsible for external security as well as linking them with political institutions. In other words, the Gulf countries should have political, security and defense institutions with identical goals. These institutions should be so intertwined that they will generate a psychological umbrella of assurance and security.

Bisharah explained that the purpose of such an umbrella is not to form a rapid deployment force that could be sent anywhere. Its aims lie in the principles declared by their majesties and highnesses -- namely the independence of the Gulf, rejection of foreign influence, strengthening of Gulf security and pursuance of an independent Gulf policy. He stressed that this can be achieved only by creating an intrinsic Gulf strength -- an intellectual strength or a military strength that safeguards and defends these aims.

In conclusion, Bisharah asserted that the Gulf's future will be better than its present. He said the Gulf countries are growing closer to one another and this will increase the chances of achieving the Gulf's goals.

The GCC secretary general left Manama for Kuwait today.

KUWAIT

INTERIOR MINISTER VIEWS SECURITY SITUATION

LD141130 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (KUNA) -- In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH, published here today, Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah said the interior ministers of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council will next month consider the conclusion of a security agreement between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He added: "Kuwait has received a memorandum containing the text of the new security agreement between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and that the Kuwaiti quarters concerned have studied it in preparation for discussing it at the forthcoming meeting of the ministers of the interior of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council."

He pointed out that the adjournment of the interior ministers conference last month "was due to the preoccupation of some of the brother Gulf ministers with other matters which coincided with the meetings."

At their meeting next month, he said, the ministers of interior of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council will review security conditions in the Gulf in the light of the new developments, particularly the plot against Bahrain.

The minister of interior denied rumors that circulated following the events in Bahrain which said the campaign of arrests and deportations in Kuwait had something to do with the events in Bahrain. He said Kuwait sent an officer from the Interior Ministry to participate in the investigations in Bahrain because one of those detained there was a Kuwaiti.

He pointed out that Kuwait enjoys an ideal security situation compared to other countries of the world despite the fact that "there are people from 120 nationalties living here."

He also said Kuwaiti authorities are now carrying out a comprehensive study "with a view to issuing identity cards for foreign nationals living in the country to facilitate their daily work, which sometimes requires them to prove their identity by some document or passport."

He expressed satisfaction at the state of security in the country and said that it was due to the efforts of the security quarters and that "the individual cases which the country has been witnessing were no different from those occuring in other countries and cannot be used as a basis for claiming lack of security."

OMAN

SENATOR PERCY, DELEGATION ARRIVE OMAN 12 JAN

EA122018 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] His Excellency Charles Percy, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, arrived in the country this evening at the head of an official delegation. During his visit, which will last several days, he will be honored with an audience with His Majesty Sultan Qabus. He will also hold talks with government officials on the current international situation as well as on relations between the two countries. The U.S. delegation was received on arrival at Sib International Airport by H.E. Ambassador Farid ibn Mubarak il-Hinai, head of the training and qualifying department of the Foreign Ministry; His Excellency the U.S. ambassador accredited to the sultanate and a number of senior officials from the Foreign Ministry.

QATAR

GULF TIMES ATTACKS HAIG'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

GF140947 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0803 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Manama, 14 Jan (WAKH) -- The Qatari newspaper GULF TIMES has belittled Haig's visit to the region. It says: "The goals of the American secretary's visit do not differ from those of his previous visits, because U.S. policy does not have anything new to offer. The visit will exert more pressure on Egypt in order to keep it away from the Arab ranks, especially now that President Husni Mubarak has assumed power in Egypt."

The GULF TIMES says if the U.S. administration is sincere in seeking a durable peace in the Middle East, it must help other countries find a solution to the Palestinian issue and work to restore the occupied Arab territories to their owners. The newspaper says that only Americans and Israelis deny Arab rights and persist in following the wrong path.

UAE

POLICE ARREST INFILTRATORS, ILLEGAL RESIDENTS

GF141006 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0843 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Jan (WAKH) -- The UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reports today that port police in Dubayy have caught 13 Iranians who tried to infiltrate the country via the sea. The paper says the authorities have detained these Iranians and will try them.

The paper also reports that Dubayy police have arrested 24 persons of various nationalities for residing illegally in the UAE.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG

High Level Talks Resume

NC131329 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) -- The second official round of U.S.-Egyptian talks began at noon today between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Attending the talks, which started at 1145 GMT, on the Egyptian side were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Rear Admiral Muhsin Hamdi, Ambassador Tahir Shash, Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym, and a number of aides. The U.S. side included U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton and the delegation accompanying Secretary of State Haig.

The second session between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Alexander Haig lasted for an hour, after which the latter proceeded to meet with Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din.

An agreement has been reached on holding a third session of talks between the Egyptian and American sides under the cochairmanship of 'Ali and Haig late today.

Mubarak Briefed

NC132137 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali tonight briefed President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the result of the discussions which he held with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig today.

The third session of the Egyptian-U.S. official discussions was held at the As-Salam Hotel in Heliopolis tonight to search for ways of giving momentum to the Middle East peace process and of reaching an agreement on the principles regarding the powers and jurisdictions of full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

'Ali headed the Egyptian side and Secretary of State Alexander Haig headed the U.S. side.

Our radio correspondent has learned that during this evening's session, Egypt stressed that it is necessary, when preparing a draft statement regarding the autonomy's jurisdictions and powers, to abide by the provisions of the Camp David accords concerning the autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, to consider this autonomy as an interim stage after which free elections will be held under the supervision of the elected Palestinian authority and to emphasize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

'Ali Comments on Talks

NC131414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that yesterday's and today's sessions of talks between the Egyptian and U.S. sides have dealt with some issues related to full Palestinian autonomy through the progress that has been made by the technical working committees during the working sessions that have been held since October.

He said that points of differences between the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints in the talks have been defined and that the Egyptian stands vis-a-vis these points have been discussed. He added that the talks also dealt with the practical procedures for reaching an agreement on principles between the Egyptian and Israeli sides.

In his statement, 'Ali affirmed that "we will complete discussing all these points during a meeting to be held between the two sides at the As-Salam Hotel this evening."

'Ali said that among the ideas being considered now is the convening of a meeting on the ministerial level between Egypt, Israel and the United States in Washington. He added that among the points being considered now, especially from the Egyptian side, is encouraging the Palestinians and other states to join the peace process.

'Ali said that during Haig's meeting with President Mubarak tomorrow, [as received] the two will discuss the outcome of the talks that have been held during three working sessions between the U.S. and Egyptian sides

More 'Ali Press Comments

NC131407 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) -- In a statement after the meeting, which lasted about 1 and 1/2 hours, 'Ali expressed the hope that Alexander Haig's visit to Egypt, which comes at an important phase, will contribute an effective role in the peace process in order to achieve stability in the area.

'Ali added that the discussions held yesterday and today dealt with the general situation in the area and bilateral relations.

'Ali told reporters: We welcome Mr Haig's participation in the talks and feel that his participation will give momentum to the autonomy talks. As we agreed on 23 September with the Israeli and the U.S. delegations, there are specific subjects that must be agreed upon; we are working to bring the viewpoints closer.

Asked whether the talks will continue as long as these resulted in progress, 'Ali asserted that the talks would continue without adhering to a specific time.

Asked whether Mr Haig has submitted proposals or a statement of principles relating to the Palestinian autonomy and whether Egypt wants Haig to embark on a shuttle diplomacy before 25 April, 'Ali said: Regarding shuttle diplomacy, I believe that Mr Haig has performed his role in this regard. In our opinion, we welcome Haig's participation in the process because we feel that this would give momentum to the autonomy negotiations.

Concerning the submission of proposals or a statement of principles by Mr Haig, 'Ali said: On 23 September we agreed with the Israeli and U.S. delegations that it was necessary to reach agreement on principal points. We are now acting to draw the views closer and limit the disagreements. We hope to achieve this in the coming stage.

[Words indistinct] will lead to the proclamation of the principles. 'Ali answered: Yes and this will be the ultimate goal of our negotiations.

Asked whether Egypt will continue the autonomy negotiations with Israel indefinitely, 'Ali said that only God is infinite.

Asked: Will you continue the discussions as long as there is a hope? 'Ali answered: Yes. We will definitely continue them.

Mubarak Notes Progress

NC140935 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak this morning met in Al-'Urubah Palace with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian and the U.S. sides held a meeting attended on the Egyptian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kam Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary and chief of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Alfred Atherton and Haig's aides.

Following this morning's meeting with Alexander Haig, which lasted about 40 minutes, President Husni Mubarak told newsmen that the talks have made general progress.

Haig Departs

NC140835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) -- This morning at 0915 [0715 GMT], U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig left Cairo after a 2-day visit, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The talks centered on the autonomy talks and on intensifying the efforts to push the peace process forward.

The U.S. Secretary of State was seen off at the airport by Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton, and Ambassador Tahir Shash.

Radio Commentary

NC141428 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jan 82

['Atiyah 'Isawi commentary: "The Significance of the U.S. Secretary of State's Visit to Egypt"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Egypt has ended following a series of meetings with Egyptian leaders that dealt with all current issues, particularly ways to accelerate the Palestinian autonomy talks. Following his meeting with Haig, President Mubarak explained that Haig had brought nothing new other than he had come to accelerate the peace process. Earlier, reports had indicated that Haig would bring new proposals to Cairo to accelerate the stalled Palestinian autonomy talks.

Out of our desire not to anticipate events, we say that perhaps Haig prefers to listen to the Israeli viewpoint before putting forward new proposals and declaring Washington's specific stand on the Palestinian issue, which has always been and still is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict -- a conflict, as it has been categorically proven, that will not end without solving this issue.

No matter what, it can be said that the U.S. administration must do its utmost to remove the existing obstacles in view of its great influence on Israel. The tension in the Middle East will not end unless the Palestinian problem is solved. The continuation of this tension has always been the door through which foreign powers have infiltrated the area -- a matter which has created further complications and which has pushed some parties to resort uselessly to oneupmanship.

The visit of the U.S. secretary of state has been useful in that the U.S. delegation has become acquainted with the Egyptian viewpoint and has been able to define the points of differences between the Egyptian and Israeli perspectives on the ways of implementing Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip according to the internationally recognized meaning of autonomy preliminary to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Defining the points of differences is in itself an important step toward resolving the crisis. However, what is more important is the need for the United States to adopt a clear and constructive stand toward the Palestinian issue. Including autonomy, after getting acquainted with the Israeli viewpoint, the situation no longer tolerates further confusion and lack of visibility. Both the United States and Israel know very well that there can be no peace unless the Palestinian people attain all the rights which all the other peoples of the world are enjoying.

We do not exaggerate in saying that unclear stands impede the peace efforts notwithstanding the fact that the chances for peace are not better than every before; otherwise, what is the reason for the annexation of the Golan Heights and, before that, Jerusalem, if the Tel Aviv government really wants to solve the problem and live in peace like all the other peoples of the world?

OFFICIAL ACCEPTS EUROPEAN MEMOS ON SINAI FORCE

NC141540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] At their requests the ambassadors of France and The Netherlands and the British and Italian charges d'affaires met today with Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Ambassador Jamal Mansur. They handed him copies of the memoranda which France, The Netherlands, Britain and Italy have sent to Israel concerning their agreement to participate in the Sinai multinational force and their readiness to discuss the practical and legal procedures for reaching an agreement on this participation as soon as possible.

MUBARAK APPOINTS CABINET SECRETARY GENERAL

NC141326 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued a republican decree today appointing Adviser Ahmad Radwan as Cabinet Secretary General.

ABU TALIB ENTERS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL FIELD

PM131523 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 11 Jan 82 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] AL-AHRAR has learned that People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib is among candidates to fill the post of vice president of the republic. This is expected to be announced shortly.

AL-AHRAR has also learned that if Dr Abu Talib's candidacy for the vice presidency is confirmed, Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, who recently became a People's Assembly member for the Abu Tij consitutuency, will be nominated by the National Democratic Party for the post of assembly speaker.

Abu Talib assumed the post of temporary president of the republic for 8 days following the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat.

Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi was deputy People's Assembly speaker in the previous assembly and was then appointed minister of information, but later left the Cabinet. He was the temporary dean of the bar association following the recent events in the lawyers association. He joined the NDP and was nominated for the assembly membership for the Abu Tij consitutency. He won against the Socialist Labor Party nominee and took the constitutional oath last week.

FATAH LEADERS TO VISIT CAIRO FOR DIALOGUE

NC140847 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) -- A Palestinian source has stated to AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, which will be published tomorrow, that several Fatah leaders are expected to visit Cairo in the next few weeks to open a dialogue with Egyptian leaders.

It is known that Egypt's stance is summed up in three points: opting for peace as a fundamental option; calling upon the Palestinians to take up their own cause; and bridging the gap in the Arab world by proceeding from a belief in the victory of a policy of reason.

AS-SADAT ASSASSINATION CASE ADJOURNS

NC131412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) -- The Supreme Military Court today resumed hearing the defense pleas in the case of the assassination of late President Anwar as-Sasat.

At the end of the session, the court decided to resume consideration of the case on Sunday to hear the remaining defense pleas.

MUBARAK ACCEPTS ITALIAN INVITATION

NC140829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) -- Al-Ahram today reports that President Husni Mubarak has welcomed the invitation he received from Italian President Alessandro Pertini to visit Italy.

The paper adds that President Mubarak will fly to Rome at the outset of his tour of Europe and the United States for talks with the Italian president. He will spend a whole day in Rome, after which he will fly to Paris and then to the United States. Mubarak will visit London and Bonn, in the FRG, before returning to Cairo.

BUTRUS GHALI TRAVELS TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR TALKS

NC140832 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0738 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Cairo this morning for Belgrade, via Rome, on a 4-day visit to Yugoslavia.

Dr Ghali said he carries a written message from President Husni Mubarak to Sergej Kraigher, president of the Yugoslav state presidency, connected with the Nonaligned Movement, bilateral relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia, and the Middle East situation. He said he would hold talks with the Yugoslav foreign affairs secretary and attend the seminar organized by the International Studies Institute in Belgrade.

SFRY'S STAMBOLIC ENDS VISIT, STATEMENT

Confers With Ramadan

JN121835 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, visited this afternoon Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, at the latter's residence.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them. They also discussed the developing bilateral economic and technical relations and ways of consolidating them in the interest of the two countries. Relations between the two countries in all fields were highly evaluated.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Stambolic, the Iraqi ambassador in Belgrade and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghad.

Leaves 12 Jan

JN121950 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, and his delegation left Baghdad this evening at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraa.

Stambolic was accorded an official sendoff headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and several ministers.

Joint Statement

JN122148 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2010 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Iraqi-Yugoslav joint statement issued in Baghdad on 12 January on visit by Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, to Iraq 10-12 January]

[Text] At the invitation of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] of the Republic of Iraq, Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, paid a cordial and official visit to the Republic of Iraq from 10-12 January 1982.

The great guest and his accompanying delegation were accorded a warm welcome expressing the relations of friendship that exist between Iraq and Yugoslavia and the sentiments of appreciation and respect that link people in the two countries.

During the visit, President Saddam Husayn received Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, who conveyed warm and sincere greetings from the SFRY State Presidency and the president of the State Presidency to his excellency as well as their sincere wishes for good health and happiness to his excellency and wishes of prosperity and progress to the friendly Iraqi people.

His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn in his turn conveyed his warm greetings to the SFRY State Presidency and the president of the State Presidency as well as his wishes of good health and happiness to them and progress and development to the friendly Yugoslav people.

During the talks which were held between Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, the following attended: RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and deputy prime minister; National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad; Sa'dun Ghaydan, RCC member and minister of transport and communications; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, acting chief of the president's office; Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; the Iraqi Armed Forces chief of staff; and Iraq's ambassador to Yugoslavia Faruq as-Samarra'i.

On the Yugoslav side the talks were attended by Josif Vrhovec, federal secretary for foreign affairs; Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Federal Executive Council; Gen Veljko Kadijevic, assistant federal secretary for national defense; SFRY Ambassador in Baghdad Vid Knezevic; Ismet Redzic, federal secretary adviser for foreign affairs; Djevat Mujezinovic, director of the group for multilateral activities of the nonaligned countries in the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs; and Milorad Popovic, chief of the cabinet of the SFRY vice president [name as heard].

Talks were held between RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, and Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, on the possibility of expanidng bilateral cooperation and on the international situation.

The SFRY vice president also received Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and deputy prime minister, with whom he discussed the ways and means to promote bilateral relations.

Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Federal Executive Council, held detailed talks with the following RCC members: Sa'dun Ghaydan, minister of transport and communications, Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir Tawfiq; and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali. The talks dealt with promoting economic relations and scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi held separate talks with his Yugoslav counterpart Josip Vrhovec. The two sides reviewed several internationalissues of common interest; particularly those related to the activities of the nonaligned states in light of the Nonaligned Movement's coming seventh conference which will be held in Baghdad later this year.

During the talks between the two sides, they observed with satisfaction the very successful development of their political cooperation. They underlined the importance and usefulness of exchanging viewpoints on the highest levels. They also agreed to exert more coordinated efforts and to pay continued attention to further entrench and widen the various spheres of bilateral cooperation and to further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.

The two sides appraised with satisfaction the fact that a very high level of economic, scientific and technological cooperation has been established. They also stressed that there are still better chances for further expanding and enriching this cooperation with a new content and more advanced form. They particularly underlined the importance of the successful assessments achieved during the recent extraordinary meeting of the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Upon assessing the current international developments, the two sides voiced their deep apprehension over the general deterioration of the international situation, which jeopordizes world peace and security. The serious crisis facing international detente and the worsening relations between the superpowers and blocs contribute to this deterioration.

What raises special apprehension is the fact that the struggle among the blocs is being extended to include the nonaligned parts of the world. Moreover, it is noticed that nonaligned states are being subjected to various forms of pressures and intervention, thus threatening the sovereignty, independence and regional unity of numerous states. In this regard, the two sides emphasized the gravity of the continued deterioration of the international crises. They stressed that the continued arms race and the worsening world economic problem add to the seriousness and ambiguity of the international stand. The two sides agreed that resistance to this stand has been further strengthened in the world. Those who are struggling for the establishment of new positive relations in the world are mainly the nonaligned countries, the democratic forces and the forces of a positive social stance that refuse to let foreign supremacy control their interests.

The Iraqi side outlined the situation in the Arab Gulf region and the reasons that led to the confrontation with Iran as a result of its continued violation of the principles of good neighborliness and coexistance and its refusal to recognize Iraq's legitimate rights and its sovereignty over its own lands and waters.

The Yugoslav side observed with deep concern the Iraqi stand and voiced its great apprehension over the continued struggle between the two neighbor countries. The Yugoslav side reconfirmed the urgent need for ending the confrontation between the two countries. The Yugoslav side renewed its support for the efforts exerted on all international levels to end the war and to bring about, through negotiations, a peaceful settlement to the current conflict in a manner that would serve the two countries' interests as well as the issues of peace and security in the world.

Regarding the Palestinian cause and the Middle East crisis, the two sides reconfirmed their stands on these two issues. They agreed that it is necessary to withdraw the Israeli occupation forces from all occupied Arab territories, including the city of Jerusalem, and to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including the right to return to their own land and properties, to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The Yugoslav side asserted its complete condemnation of the treacherous Zionist raid on Iraqi nuclear installations and stressed the right of developing countries to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The two sides attached great importance to the situation within the Nonaligned Movement as a whole and to the activities of the member states. They stressed the importance of the role played by nonaligned policy in solving major international political issues and economic problems.

The two sides were of the common opinion that the widespread crises and cumulative international problems require, more than at any time before, an effective role by the nonaligned states. They expressed the common belief that only through effective struggle for peace, equality and progress in the world, can the Nonaligned Movement assert its role as a factor independent of blocs in international relations.

During their talks, the two sides also stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation and active unity and solidarity among the nonaligned states on the basis of the real principles of nonaligned policy.

The two sides also assessed that differences and disputes between nonaligned states adversely affect the movements ability to take action, especially since such differences and disputes open the way for all forms of foreign pressure and interference. In this respect, the two sides agreed on the need to exert earnest efforts to overcome existing differences and disputes between nonaligned states to consolidate the movement and its role in international relations.

The two sides also pointed to the need to earnestly resist all efforts to split and paralyze the movement. The two sides expressed their readiness to closely cooperate with other nonaligned states to prepare for the 7th conference of nonaligned heads of state and governments to be held in Baghdad in September 1982 with a view to rendering the conference a success.

The two sides stressed the importance of the 7th summit conference in strengthening the solidarity and work of the Nonaligned Movement and increasing its earnest participation in and contribution toward solving the political and economic problems facing our modern world.

The Yugoslav side noted with great appreciation the great efforts being exerted by Iraq to insure good preparation and complete success for the coming 7th summit of the nonaligned states.

Regarding the problem of South Africa, the two sides strongly condemned the racist South African regime for its unlawful occupation of Namibia and its aggressive policy against Angola and the other frontline states. They also pointed to the need to take firm measures to apply the UN plan granting independence to Namibia. The two sides reaffirmed their complete support for SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people without whose direct and equal participation real independence for Namibia cannot be achieved.

The two sides expressed their concern over other hotbeds of tension in certain parts of Africa, Asia and Central America. They pointed to the need to achieve a just solution to them on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter which guarantees peoples' independence and their right to freely determine their own destinies.

Upon reviewing the international economic situation, the two sides indicated the continuing intensity of the problems of world economy and the large gap between the industrially developed states and the developing states. In this regard, the two sides expressed their absolute support for the urgent attainment of an agreement within the framework of the United Nations to begin international negotiations. The two sides also stressed the importance of strengthening solidarity among the developing states and increasing joint cooperation on the basis of self-dependence.

The two sides' talks stressed once again the congruity or great similarity in their viewpoints toward international issues. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the results of the visit and their conviction that this visit will contribute to further consolidation of mutual confidence, enhancement of the present cordial relations and expansion of cooperation between Iraq and the SFRY.

Petar Stambolic, vice president of the SFRY presidency, expressed his appreciation to President Saddam Husayn, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the Iraqi Government and people for their cordial hospitality and the welcome accorded him and his delegation.

On behalf of the SFRY State Presidency, the vice president of the presidency renewed the invitation for President Saddam Husayn to visit Yugoslavia. A similar invitation was also extended to RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. The two invitations were accepted with pleasure.

Baghdad, 12 January 1982.

MINISTER AD-DULAYMI HITS IRANIAN, SYRIAN REGIMES

PM131511 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jan 82 pp 21-23

['Abd al-Wahhab al-Qaysi interview with Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim ad-Dulaymi in Baghdad: -- date of interview not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: The Iranian media are holding interviews with Iranians who speak Arabic and who used to live in Iraq. They are introduced as Iraqi prisoners of war. What do you think of these interviews?

Answer: We have in fact expelled from Iraq large numbers of Persians who had formed a fifth column. It is our right to clear the mud out of our country. The Iranian regime wants to exploit anything, so it exploited the Persian expellees and presented them as prisoners of war. As usual it is fishing in troubled waters. We request the Iranians to account for the number of prisoners they have announced. They are responsible for their official broadcast announcements, although their claims are false.

Question: The Iranian media obtain from their fifth column, the Iranian expellees, names of some Iraqi officers and soldiers and their military positions, and then claim that these officers and soldiers were killed. Their aim is to create confusion and spread rumors. How are you dealing with this phenomenon?

Answer: The answer lies in our people's confidence in us. Furthermore, the Iraqi fighters are not too distant from their families. They come on leave and they write to their relatives from the front, appear on television and speak on the radio. They speak to their relatives and their friends from their military positions. This may indeed be a pitfall but, in fighting the war, our people are more concerned with scoring victory than with the question of whether or not a son is martyred or returns safe from the front.

Question: What is your comment on Rafsanjani's statement that Iran has asked Israel to repay its debts and that Israel has repaid its debts in the form of arms and spare parts?

Answer: Rafsanjani was truthful with himself and was brave because he told the truth and told the Iranian people: yes we took arms from Israel. The others lied.

Question: How do you view the tragic incident [explosion] at the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. What were the motives, and did the aggressors achieve their objectives?

Answer: I believe that the Iraqi Embassy incident was a sign of utter bankruptcy because nobody would perpetrate such a cowardly act before running out of all other means. It is the lowest degree of political bankruptcy. This conduct by the Iranians and by Hafiz al-Asad's regime is nothing new. They were also behind the Baghdad Airport explosion which claimed the lives of many innocent people. Everybody knows about the embassy incident, the incident at Al-Mustansiriyah and the Ad-Da'wah party's explosives. Such is the attitude of people who have gone bankrupt. It is always stupid and comes after a nervous breakdown that leads to crime against innocent people. We feel grief for our comrades and their friends who fell as virtuous martyrs. This is the real identity of the Syrian and Iranian regimes. We have definite information proving that the Syrian and Iranian regimes were behind the painful incident.

Question: In an interview with an Arabic newspaper, Hafiz al-Asad says that there is no evidence of an armament link between the Iranians and the Zionists, but Iran itself has frankly admitted this link. In other words, the defendant confesses the crime and his lawyer denies it. What is your comment?

Answer: In my article in the Baghdad newspaper ATH-THAWRAH on Hafiz al-Asad I said that one should at least have a minimum sense of shame, and that in the absence of all sense of shame one can do anything. I have nothing to add to this except to say that Hafiz al-Asad confirms every day that he is Persian not Arab. He may well be Persian. He is more Persian than the Persians and he is influenced by Abu Righal [the fox]. It also appears that he is haunted by some ghost. God knows what ghost. The Syrian saying "about time you woke up" applies to him. Rafsanjani has admitted [the arms deals with Israel] and so has Rajavi. We also have the confessions of the Ad-Da'wah party members who have returned from Iran and surrendered to Iraq and who have abandoned Khomeyni and his call. These confessions reveal the truth. After all this, does not the saying "about time you woke up" apply to Hafiz al-Asad. The Persians themselves have admitted it but Hafiz al-Asad does not want to admit it. The case of the Argentine plane is a scandal in itself. It seems that Hafiz al-Asad is involved in something big. He may be cooperating with Zionism in a tactical plan which he tries to cover up with his maneuvers, deception and lies.

Question: Some say that Iran is not fighting alone and that a number of states are backing it. Can you name these states and specify the roles they play?

Answer: Yes, Hafiz al-Asad's regime tops the list. It is number one and so, in fact, is the Zionist entity. Add to this some other Arab regimes and some people who have connections with U.S. imperialism in the black market trade, but mainly it is Zionism and Hafiz al-Asad's regime. There are Korean experts. The Iranians received military aid from Korea. Recently Hafiz al-Asad sent them tanks, missiles and other weapons of various types, in addition to advice.

Question: Hafiz al-Asad's regime is trying to revive the Barzani remnants. What is your information on this?

Answer: There is an Iraqi proverb which says "when a Jew is bankrupt he goes back to his old books." Hafiz al-Asad is looking for some rubbish on the garbage heap of history, but that will not do him any good and he will not be able to turn it into fertilizer for his soil. It is impossible to turn back the clock. It is sufficient to say that our Iraqi people, Arabs and Kurds, are united. The Kurds, as well as all other Muslim and Christian sects, are fighting the Persians, all united under the bannker of Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn. It is up to Hafiz al-Asad if he wants to root among rubbish dumps for something. It is sufficient to say that the number of the Kurdish Popular Army members who have taken part in the fighting has reached 30,000. Going to the garbage dumps is irrefutable proof of political bankruptcy.

Question: How do you read North Korea's joining hands with the Khomeyni regime? Do you consider Korea's support as reflecting support for the Iraqi communists?

Answer: We respect all nations and their choices. This matter is up to the Koreans. Talking about Arabs is one thing and talking about foreigners is quite another. As for the communists, I wonder, do we have Iraqi communists? Are there communists or is there a communist party in Iraq? If so, where are they and what is their position vis-a-vis Iraq's important events? Do these events not move them -- events such as oil nationalization, the October War, the mutiny in the north, Palestine and the Palestinian cause, the building of a new Iraq, agrarian reform, labor laws and labor pension laws?

Question: We have learned that some old Iraqi communists have renounced their principles and have asked to go to the battlefield, that their requests have been granted and that they have indeed gone to the battlefield. How true is this?

Answer: It is the right of every sincere citizen to defend his country when it is in danger, regardless of his views. The least a citizen can do is defend his homeland. It is the right of every Iraqi to defend his country and mix his blood with the blood of his comrades. This is real patriotism. We urge the absconding communists to abandon this phenomenon of begging around. It is a shame for them to hang around in foreign countries asking tourists for help and begging from this or that person while their country is fighting in defense of its honor and dignity. It is a shame for them to remain indifferent to fateful events. If they are really sincere, why do they not return to their country. I urge every Iraqi who is loafing around and begging abroad to return to his country which is prosperous. A worker in Iraq earns what is equivalent to the salary of a minister.

Question: Is there a dialogue in progress between Iraq and the Iranian opposition?

Answer: President Saddam Husayn has said that we are prepared to cooperate with any faction of the Iranian opposition to get rid of the false Khomeyni regime. I believe that the opposition is very active and, according to my information, it is about to achieve victory. Our heartfelt congratulations to it.

Question: How do you view certain pro-Khomeyni Palestinian groups. Now that the strong link between Khomeyni and Israel has been exposed?

Answer: A Palestinian Arab who supports the Persians against Arab Iraq is a traitor because the Iraqi Army is the army of Palestine. The best indication of the Iranian intentions toward Palestine can be seen in the Khomeyni demonstrations calling for the execution of some Palestinian resistance leaders, which is exactly what Menahem Begin and world Zionism wants.

Question: What is Iraq's position on the question of the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe?

Answer: The United States has a global strategy. It is the enemy of the Arabs and of mankind. It seeks to serve its interests as well as Israeli interests everywhere. This is a serious matter and it upsets the international balance and is a threat to world peace. Iraq condemns such attitudes.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 583

JN131644 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes continued their raids today against Iranian enemy targets and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield, inflicting heavy human and material losses on the enemy and returning safely to base.

Communique No 583, issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening, stated that Iraqi forces inflicted heavy losses on the Iranian enemy. Known losses were put at 79 killed and 2 excavators and 1 observation post destroyed. The communique added that Iraqi losses in all sectors were four martyrs.

Following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant armed forces continued their operations in the various sectors of the battlefield. Following are the results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our units engaged an enemy force in the Mimak area opposite their positions in Sayf Sa'd, struck it with various kinds of weapons and forced it to retreat after sustaining 58 killed, whose bodies still litter the battlefield.
B. Fourteen killed and one stockpile of ammunition destroyed in the Abadan area.
C. Four killed and two excavators destroyed in the Shush area.
D. Three killed and one observation post destroyed in the Sumar area.
E. Three killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
F. Two killed in the Nowsud area.
G. Our eagles continued their courageous raids today against enemy targets and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield, inflicting heavy human and material losses on the enemy. Our ground units heard explosions and saw flames at these targets. All our planes returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 79 killed and two excavators, 1 observation post and 1 stockpile of ammunition destroyed.

II. Our losses: Four martyrs in all sectors.

IRANIAN DOWNING OF IRAQI PLANE DENIED

JN131227 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian claims that an Iraqi fighter plane was downed in the southern sector of the operations theater the day before yesterday.

The spokesman told the INA that the Persian enemy's lies are part of a mass media that relies on charlatanism, deception and falsehood and on misleading and withholding facts from the Iranian peoples.

He pointed out that 2 days ago the Persian enemy announced that a raiding Iraqi fighting plane was shot down west of Dezful. He said: We challenge the Iranian side to present any evidence supporting its claims. The spokesman confirmed that all Iraqi planes, which carried our successful and violent raids on Persian targets in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, returned safely to base.

In conclusion, the spokesman said that the ruling clique in Iran is resorting to charlatanism after all its dreams have been wrecked due to the grave loss of life and equipment inflicted by our valiant ground, air and naval forces.

INTERIOR MINISTRY STATEMENT ON AMMAN BOMB

JN131917 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1806 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Interior Ministry statement on explosion in Amman grocery on 11 January 1982]

[Text] At 0945 on Monday, 11 January 1982, there was an explosion in the Cinderella grocery in the first circle area of Jabal Amman. The owner of the grocery is Jordanian citizen Sa'adih Salih Salamih Haddadin. The explosion destroyed some of the grocery's walls, damaged some of its contents and wounded the grocery's owner in his right thigh. The following passersby were also wounded: Muhammad Ibrahim 'Ali ash-Shatanawi and Muhammad 'Ali ad-Darawishah from As-Sarih village, Rashid 'Atiyat Allah Rashid from At-Tafilah and one of the Indian employees at the Indian Embassy in Amman.

Another person called 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Ali ad-Darduk from Nabulus was seriously wounded in various parts of his body, as he was inside the grocery. The initial medical report indicates that this person sustained various wounds and lacerations to the face which may cause him to lose his sight. He also sustained wounds in both hands, lost the right hand's index finger and suffered burns on his thighs.

The preliminary investigations held by the concerned security organs have revealed the following:

1. The person who placed the explosive charge inside the grocery is 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Ali ad-Darduk from Nabulus, 20 years old, who lives and works as a carpenter in Ar-Rusayfah.

2. The person who drove 'Abdallah to the scene of the incident is his uncle Hijazi Munib Hasan ad-Darduk from Nabulus who lives in Amman and works as a driver on the Amman-Damascus-Beirut route.

3. The person who delivered the explosive charge to them is Hisham Mustafa Qanbar, a Syrian from Idlib Province who works as third secretary in the Syrian Embassy in Amman.

4. The investigation has also revealed that Hisham Qanbar was able a few months ago to enlist Hijazi Munib Hasan ad-Darduk to the service of Syrian intelligence. The latter had once worked as a driver to the former Syrian ambassador in Amman.

5. Upon the request of Hisham Qanbar, Hijazi ad-Darduk enlisted his nephew 'Abdallah ad-Darduk to the service of Syrian intelligence.

6. Hisham Qanbar, third secretary at the Syrian Embassy, commissioned Hijazi ad-Darduk and his nephew 'Abdallah ad-Darduk with carrying out explosion operations in some of the groceries which sell alcoholic drinks to implicating Muslim factions in these attacks.

7. On the morning of Monday, 11 January 1982, Hijazi ad-Darduk and his nephew 'Abdallah ad-Darduk arrived at the Syrian Embassy in Amman in Hijazi ad-Darduk's car, a Plymouth with licence plate No 22922, and met Hisham Qanbar inside of the embassy's offices. Hisham had prepared an explosive charge and handed it to 'Abdallah ad-Darduk in the presence of Hijazi and gave them advice on how to time it for a period of 10 minutes.

He asked them to place it at the target on which they had previously agreed, that is, the Cinderella grocery. After this, Hijazi and 'Abdallah ad-Darduk left the embassy at approximately 0930 of the same day.

8. After they arrived at the grocery, Hijazi parked his car on the opposite side of the grocery and 'Abdallah ad-Darduk, who was carrying a paper bag in which he had placed the explosive charge, left the car after having timed it in accordance with Hisham Qanbar's instructions and entered the grocery. Shortly afterwards, the explosive charge went off in his hands while the grocer was busy preparing some bottles of beer for 'Abdallah ad-Darduk.

9. Upon studying the border records, it became clear that Hijazi Munib ad-Darduk had left the country for Syria in his car via the Ramtha borders on the morning of 11 January immediately after the incident. It also became evident that the third secretary at the Syrian Embassy in Amman, Hisham Qanbar, had also left the country after the incident.

While denouncing this criminal act, the Jordanian Government would like to stress that such acts, carried out by accredited diplomats, only show without the slightest doubt that the government of this diplomat, through these vile acts, can only aim at pursuing the disruption of Arab efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, while this government claims that it is working for this solidarity and is concerned about it. It also continues to mine the Arab nation's aspirations for unity of Arab ranks to confront the attacks and conspiracies of the Arab nation's enemies against Arab territories and against Arabs in the present and the future. [as heard]

Dailies Condemn Syria

JN140911 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] In their editorials today, the Jordanian newspapers deal with the explosion in an Amman grocery in which five citizens were wounded.

Under the headline "Blowing up Grocery Shop will not Liberate The Golan," AD-DUSTUR writes: At a time when sincere efforts are being exerted to purify the Arab atmosphere from differences and divisions and to build up Arab solidarity and at a time when the whole nation stands by Syria against Israel's annexation of the Golan, the Damascus rulers blow up a shop in an Amman residential area, wounding innocent citizens as indicated by the Interior Ministry statement. By such a criminal act, those rulers think they can undermine national unity and stir sectarian sedition.

At a time when the Syrian regime pretends to care for unifying Arab efforts in the face of Zionist schemes and at a time when it sheds false tears over the Golan and calls on Arabs to undertake collective action to save the Syrian heights from Israel's domination, it sends agents to blow up a grocery in Amman as though such an act helps to liberate the Golan or forestall Zionist dreams.

At a time when the Israeli enemy's appetite to expand and commit aggression against all Arab lands gets stronger, the Syrian regime chooses to return to the old methods to sabotage and disrupt the Arab ranks, thus giving our nation's enemies a chance to tighten their grip over occupied Arab lands and to look forward to occupying further parts of the Arab world.

This criminal act, which is denounced by the citizens and all Arabs in the same way as they denounced the blowing up of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, harms the Arab situation in general and undermines Syria's Arab and international reputation because it is an act which serves only Israel and enables it to achieve all its expansionist ambitions and designs in the Arab region.

Concluding, AD-DUSTUR says: While condemning and denouncing this crime, which aims at sabotaging efforts being exerted to unify Arab ranks and pave the way for the resumption of the Fes summit, we call for putting an end to such methods which serve only Israel so that the Arab nation can devote itself to confronting dangers threatening it from all directions.

Under the headline "In Whose Interest?" AR-RA'Y writes: When manners break down and when grudge blinds both sight and insight, the result will only be that of wallowing in crime. This is the clear interpretation of the criminal blowing up of a grocery in Rainbow Street. What has happened involves dimensions which are not difficult to indicate. Those who planned and instigated the crime wanted to strike at Jordanian national unity and create an atmosphere of sectarian unrest in Jordan in the hope of upsetting the stability characterizing our country in the region. What has happened is also a blow to Arab efforts being exerted to restore Arab solidarity at a time when these efforts are about to bear some fruit in unifying the Arab ranks against the Israeli swallowing of the Golan. Thus, the unavoidable question is raised -- in whose interest is this incident?

Concluding, AR-RA'Y writes: It is obvious that the hand which stabs Arab solidarity is most harmful to the nation. However, it must be remembered that the hand which harms this country can only be amputated from the shoulder and that our people's unity and our national cohesion are stronger than all plots.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE ENDS MEETINGS

JN132030 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Amman -- The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee ended its meetings today. The committee discussed in detail its achievements during 1981 in light of the development plan for that year. It also discussed effect of these achievements on the policy of bolstering steadfastness against the fierce and inhumane onslaught that the Zionist occupation authorities are waging against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories aimed at legalizing the enemy's presence and aggression.

The committee also discussed the general situation in the occupied territories and the Zionist occupation authorities' schemes aimed at imposing civilian administration in accordance with the Begin-Sharon plan, whose objective is the seizure of land and the eviction of its inhabitants. It also reviewed the activities of the suspect village unions established by the occupation citizens' stands that condemn these unions, refuse to deal with them and spurn those who are in charge of them.

The committee adopted appropriate decisions that will achieve and bolster the steadfastness of our people and enable them to remain on their land and to confront all the hostile schemes of the Zionist occupation authorities. The committee gave special importance to the sector of agriculture, to safeguard the land, to support and assist farmers and to develop the countryside. It allotted 5 million dinars for this purpose.

The committee also put the final touches on the measures and preparations for implementing the committee's decision on establishing the national welfare fund which will aim, in its first stage, at providing support for detainees, strugglers, employees and workers in the various establishments and graduates in addition to allotting sufficient appropriations for carrying out housing projects in general and urban housing in particular.

The committee adopted several other resolutions to support social development, education, universities, and industry and trade unions. The committee also formulated the bases for planning the current year's budget.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian side; and PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd ar-Rahim Agham, Hanna Nasir, Khalil al-Wazir, Hani al-Hasan and Brig Gen 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO representative in Amman.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs and head of the Jordanian side; Interior Ministry Sulayman 'Arar; Transport Minister 'Ali as-Suhaymat; and Shawkat Mahmud, under secretary of the Occupied Land Affairs Ministry.

DAILIES NOTE FAILURE OF HAIG'S MISSION

JN150729 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] On the U.S. secretary of state's mission, AD-DUSTUR said: It is obvious that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has not succeeded in his mission to revive the autonomy negotiations during his recent visit to Egypt and Israel. This failure is made clear by his decision to cut his visit short and to leave Tel Aviv for Washington tomorrow without stopping in Cairo as expected.

Although it was said that Haig's mission was only to listen to Egyptian and Israeli views and that he was carrying no ideas to reactivate negotiations, Haig hoped to find a common basis in the Cairo and Tel Aviv stands with the aim of removing the main differences between them and bringing their concepts on autonomy closer together. Haig's failure is not strange because Egypt insists on a complete and comprehensive autonomy that includes both land and inhabitants and on keeping the door open for the Palestinian people's exercise of their right to self-determination, whereas Israel continues to insist on its traditional stand as communicated to the U.S. secretary of state yesterday and as is expressed in its refusal to include the holy city's inhabitants in autonomy and its insistence on applying civilian administration to inhabitants only while maintaining Israeli sovereignty over the territories.

Thus, Haig found himself face to face with the deadlock that has halted negotiations for over 2 years. His attempts to use the card of imminent Israeli withdrawal from Sinai have not succeeded in achieving any flexibility in the stands of either Egypt or Israel.

AR-RA'Y continues: It was and still is natural for the United States to try to exert pressure on Israel in an attempt to change its attitude toward autonomy, particularly since the U.S. concept of autonomy is closer to Egypt.

However, it seems that Washington does not desire, or is probably unable, to exert the required pressure on Israel in light of the facts governing Israeli-U.S. relations. Thus, Haig will return to Washington carrying nothing for President Reagan other than the old information available on the Egyptian and Israeli stands.

As long as Washington refuses to play its role as a responsible partner in the negotiations and as long as it is satisfied with the role of an onlooker, Israel will not be forced to change its stand. In this way the following traditional equation will remain as it is until April: Egypt refuses to bargain over the Palestinians' rights in return for Israel's withdrawal from the rest of Sinai; Israel refuses to be more lenient as long as it is in the stronger position of occupying the territory and doing with it as it likes; the United States refuses to play its role in achieving peace as long as it is not exposed to real Arab pressure; and the Arabs, as usual, are incapable of making war or peace.

ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI ARRIVES, MEETS BADRAN

JN141300 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office at noon today Mr Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, in the presence of Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

The Arab situation in general and the latest developments were reviewed and ways of bolstering Arab solidarity in order to consolidate joint Arab action. The bases for resuming the 12th Arab summit conference and the issues of southern Lebanon were discussed.

Mr Klibi arrived in Amman this morning on a 2-day visit to Jordan, which is within the framework of his tour of the Arab states for the purpose of achieving Arab solidarity and trying to resume the 12th Arab summit conference.

In a statement to reporters, he said that during his visit, he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and several top officials. He added that he will listen to the Jordanian officials' viewpoints and discuss with them the issues pertaining to joint Arab action and ways to bolster Arab solidarity under the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, particularly since Jordan plays a leading role in the Arab region.

In reply to a question on the Arab summit conference's resumption, Mr Klibi said: There is a common determination to resume this conference. Indeed, the way its work was suspended reflects such determination. I sensed a readiness to facilitate the resumption of the Fes conference's work from all the states I have contacted so far.

He added that the existing positive action is to prepare for this. Thus, if it is decided to resume the conference's work, it would be on firm bases that would enable us to reach significant positive results. He pointed out that among these bases is the need for Arab states to agree on common ground from which they can proceed to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation. He added that the Jerusalem issue is the main issue of concern to the Arab summit, since it forms an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories.

On the Saudi plan, the secretary general said that this still exists, adding that discussion of this plan and the general issues on the summit's agenda had been postponed so that through more consultation and discussions, the Arab states can reach a comprehensive agreement on this plan.

AL-ASAD ADDRESSES BA'TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE

JN140739 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Central Committee ended the meetings of its fifth session -- held under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, party secretary general -- at 0015 today, after discussing the state's general budget for 1982 and approving its major provisions and general trends.

After reviewing all the resolutions adopted by the committee's previous session and the measures implemented thus far, the party Central Committee recommended that general expenditures of the state's ministries, general institutions and companies be cut; that squandering in various fields be decreased; that efforts continue to be exerted to improve production and increase the sources of income for the state budget; and that serious study be continued in order to achieve price stability and improve the citizens' standard of living within the framework of the state's available potential.

The committee stressed the need to seriously follow up the work of the state's apparatus to guarantee that adopted resolutions are well implemented. Comrade Central Committee members gave special attention to agricultural methods and adopted several resolutions and recommendations to guarantee the development and implementation of the resolutions of the seventh regional congress in this respect.

The comrade central committee members adopted several other resolutions in higher education and in the organization of vanguards and local administration. Special attention was given to secondary technical education. The comrade members expressed satisfaction over the steps taken in this regard, particularly the opening of 50 technical secondary schools, and called for continuing this trend in education.

The comrade members also expressed satisfaction over the steps taken in initiative and developing higher education in the state universities and providing books for university students throughout their university years and for all syllabi.

At the conclusion of the work of the Central Committee's fifth session, comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general, delivered an important, political and comprehensive speech in which he discussed Syria's pan-Arab stand, pointing out how Syria's steadfastness, both internally and on the foreign level, was achieved and dealt strong and effective blows to the imperialist-Zionist schemes directed against our state and region.

The comrade secretary general added that we can be proud of having stopped the advance of Camp David, thanks to our efforts, our moves, our sweat nad blood, our people's faith and our party's strength.

He then reviewed the stage that followed As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem, his surrender to the enemy and the many opportunities that arose following that visit to apply pressure on the Arabs and their future, saying: They thought Egypt was only the beginning and that the other Arabs would follow suit.

They also believed that he who can bring Egypt to this position can also drag the other Arabs to the same position. We, however, optimistically moved to fulfill all that duty and our principles dictated. Indeed, we moved confidently, assured of the people and the strength of our party and masses. Thus we were strong and used the first, strongest and most effective resources: the individual who has faith in his cause and who aspires, along with his nation, to sacrifice everything for the sake of this homeland and future.

Resources mean development and the individual is a factor in development. We have the individual with whom we are proceeding to confront the enemy. We did not heed any of the voices in the region expressing doubts about the future or trying to impede our moves in the Arab homeland and the world and after clearly and decisively defining our concepts against Camp David and its results.

However, despite this initial success, we were subjected to pressures and felt these pressures in every field. Yet we stood fast and continued our moves while still aspiring for a goal and remaining true to our cause and our people. Thus, the Camp David advance stopped.

Zionism and the West in general promoted As-Sadat's image and made him one of them. They did their utmost to delude the Arab citizen and give him false information. However, with our feats and extensive moves, we have thus far managed to stop the implementation of their scheme and made them change their impressions and all their previous beliefs, namely, that Syria can do nothing and that As-Sadat's path is the path that the others, particularly Syria, must follow. We changed and uprooted this image.

I do not feel that there is in the United States now one official who sees that it is possible to end the Arab-Israel conflict through following a path that is not being followed by Syria.

No one in our Arab region believes that we can be forced to do what we do not want to do. No Arab now believes that Syria can either be frightened or intimidated and, consequently, dragged to positions contradicting its principled stands. No Arab now believes that we shall surrender, however great the pressures surrounding us. This should make us feel more confident but not arrogant. We must have confidence in ourselves. We must feel that what we have achieved is a great thing that makes us stronger in confronting future possibilities and surprises.

The secretary general then touched on Israel's recent law on the Golan, saying: The Golan was not occupied in accordance with a law decreed by Israel. Israel did not take it by law and we shall not regain it by law. The issue pertains to the balance of power and we must work in all walks of life to prepare the individual who is a struggler, offers sacrifices and has complete faith in his nation so that we can liberate all the occupied Arab territories. The occupied part of the Golan does not constitute all our occupied Arab territory.

The comrade secretary general spoke about what happened and is happening in the Sinai now and said: All As-Sadat did was to remove the siege from the Sinai and impose it on the whole of Egypt. As-Sadat did not make peace; he capitulated. He then talked about the limitations imposed on Egypt's internal and external movement by the Camp David accords. The comrade secretary general asked: Does a just peace mean that Israel stipulates that Egyptian radio should not broadcast a Koranic verse talking about Jews? Does a just peace give Israel the right to interfere in Egypt's internal affairs? Does a just peace mean that the Egyptian citizen should completely renounce his identity? What values are the Egyptian citizens living for under Camp David? If they are pan-Arab values, I say they have been robbed; and it has been said that priority should be given to the Camp David accords. These accords have been given preference over Arabs. If they are religious values, then they cannot broadcast certain Koranic verses on their radio. As-Sadat went [to Jerusalem] from a position of weakness and capitulation. Therefore, he has not achieved liberation or peace, but capitulation. As-Sadat's death can only be viewed through this comprehensive concept; that is, through the large treasonous act against Egypt and the Arab nation. We are today, as in previous years, the owners of a proud, solid and dignified pan-Arab stand, which has confidence in itself, its cause and nation.

The comrade leader added: We must live our present with an eye on the future. Time depends on our will and work in this country and on us in the party in the first place. Nothing will be impossible if we say that nothing is impossible. We are marching along the path, though slowly as we sometimes feel. However, by our love for this homeland and our sincerity, we must hasten our steps in order to reach our targets.

Addressing the Central Committee members at the conclusion of his speech, the comrade secretary general said: We have done good work at this Central Committee session and we are still at the beginning of our work. We have studied the budget, which is related to the lives of the people, reviewed its broad lines as well as its previous decisions and what has been implemented or not implemented. This is not easy because we are dealing with people's problems and matters related to their lives. We are also dealing with all state affairs. This is not easy, but this is the spirit of the party, the spirit of collective leadership, the spirit of the party which leads us forward toward construction and which will lead us to the attainment of our final target for which we aspire, the target of victory. I hope that some weaknesses we are facing in our material and economic potentials will not be reason for any despair or lack of confidence in the future because it is man who does everything. If our potentials are weak now, we can with our will make them abundant and large in the future. Everything depends on our will.

KHADDAM LEAVES FOR TALKS IN MOSCOW 14 JAN

JN141027 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA) -- Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, left Damascus for Moscow this morning on an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government for the purpose of holding consultations on the current situation in the region in accordance with the friendship and cooperation treaty.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES DFLP'S HAWATIMAH

JN141742 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, today received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and a number of the front's Political Bureau members. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region following the Zionist entity's decision to annex Arab territories and the escalation of the imperialist and Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation. They also dealt with the capitulatory schemes against the Arab steadfastness forces and the need to mobilize Arab resources in the battle to defeat and foil the imperialist schemes and realize the Arab nation's aims of unity, freedom and socialism.

ARMY, MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CLASH IN ALEPPO, HAMAH

NC091314 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] Some 35,000 Syrians have disappeared and their families are asking the authorities for their whereabouts. Scores of people are being killed and hundreds injured in Aleppo and Hamah in daily clashes between special units and the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Voice of Lebanon has received new reports that Aleppo has been the scene of heavy clashes in the past 2 days between members of the Muslim Brotherhood and the special units, resulting in the deaths of six Syrian soldiers and a number of civilians near the Grand Mosque. These reports indicate that the sounds of artillery and machinegun fire can still be heard in most suburbs of the city.

Early Friday morning the special units encircled (?Al-Jumhuriyah) suburb and imposed a curfew so they could search for Muslim Brotherhood members. The search resulted in clashes in which seven soldiers and people were killed.

It has been noted that the Syrian security forces are confiscating cars with foreign plates to avoid attacks and ambushes by the Muslin Brotherhood.

Communist leaflets have been distributed in Aleppo, inciting people against Syrian intelligence.

The city of Hamah is still the scene of heavy clashes and tension. Deomonstrations were staged protesting the disappearance of 35,000 Syrian youths whose fate is still unknown.

Further on Clashes

NC141322 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Nine Syrian officers and soldiers have been killed in Aleppo, clashes have occurred in Homs and Hamah and Soviet experts have been threatened with death if they do not leave Syria.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that clashes occurred in Aleppo yesterday morning between the special units and Muslim Brotherhood members following the assassination of two officers in the Al-Mukambu suburb. One officer was named Lt Muhammad 'Ali Hasan.

The special units encircled certain Aleppo suburbs, arresting several people and opening fire on others. Roadblocks manned by armed men were set up in various parts of the city amid acute tension.

West of Hamah and in the Al-Ghab plain near the township of (As-Suqayniyah), Muslim Brotherhood members attacked a military truck, killing seven soldiers and injuring others.

The special units then set up broadblocks while helicopters overflew the tense areas.

In the meantime, Homs has been living under a heavy military crackdown.

Sources told the Voice of Lebanon that the Syrian-Iraqi border was tense over the past few days.

BRIEFS

SAUDI AMBASSADOR'S TERM EXPIRES -- Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad today received Shaykh 'Abd al-Muhsin az-Zayd, ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Damascus, on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Syria. [Text] [Damascus SANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Jan 82 JN]

MA'ARIV CARRIES HARIF COMMENTARY ON HAIG VISIT

TA131046 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 82 pp 17, 37

[Yosef Harif commentary: "'I will speak about the future of Tiran and Sanafir in Cairo', promised Haig, and the issue will also be raised at the meeting with Begin next week"]

[Text] On a June night in 1974, two men -- a civilian and a much-decorated officer in uniform -- happened to be seated side by side, discussing the situation in the Middle East, Soviet expansion in the region and dangers posed to Europe by the Soviet Union. The conversation went on for a couple of hours, with a few brief interruptions. In the end, the two men acknowledged the lively interest they had found in their exchange of views and, on parting, made no secret of their having largely concurred, if not holding absolutely identical views, on just about every subject raised.

After a lapse of years the two men met again, this time in official capacities: the civilian, who back in June 1974 had led the opposition, had meanwhile been elected prime minister -- Menahem Begin. The uniformed officer, since turned civilian, had been appointed his country's Secretary of State -- Alexander Haig.

Since that chance meeting, at a Knesset banquet in honour of former U.S. President Richard Nixon, the friendship between Begin and Haig, the former NATO commander, has deepened and they still share many of the theses they exchanged between courses and between speeches 8 years ago.

When Haig arrives next week -- again, as it happens, from Brussels, the seat of NATO headquarters -- and meets with Menahem Begin in Jerusalem, their talks will be conducted in the light of the very same topics they discussed at their first encounter: the Middle East problems, Soviet expansionism, the threat to Europe. Will they this time be shifting away from that erstwhile sense of accord and unanimity?

Between June 1974 and January 1982, Begin and Haig have met innumerable times and have for the most part found a great measure of understanding (Haig was the first to proclaim, in Jerusalem, that Israel was a friend and ally of the United States, which at that time constituted a significant innovation). However, something happened in the meantime. Just when it looked to Israel as if its understanding with the United States had reached a new peak, formulated in the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation -- and this could scarcely have been concluded without constant encouragement from Alexander Haig -- relations between the two countries plunged to an all-time low.

The U.S. secretary of state's avowed purpose in visiting Israel this time -- in parallel with his visit to Egypt -- is, in the routine phrase, to get relations with Israel "back to business as usual." In other words, as if nothing had happened between the two countries of late, involving them in a loud and raucous dispute, accompanied by punitive acts against Israel on the part of the United States.

Given the present situation, this effort to revert to "business as usual" is much more significant than the usual implication conveyed by this cliche. Haig used the phrase when he said it was unthinkable for business to "go on as usual" in a situation where Israel would go on springing "surprises" as it did when it extended Israeli law to the Golan Heights. If indeed Haig believes that the time has come to go back to "business as usual," presumably this also signifies the imminent lifting of all the "punishments" meted out to Israel (suspension of the memorandum of understanding, suspension of placement of orders with Israeli Military Industry to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, and other similar "suspensions").

So far it has been learned that Secretary of State Haig is the bearer of a personal message from President Reagan to Prime Minister Menahem Begin. This may be taken to mean that President Reagan has also bestowed his blessing on the move heralded by Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Senator Charles Percy following his talk with the prime minister -- the turning of a new leaf in U.S. - Israeli relations.

It is difficult to foretell what is going to be written on this new leaf. It will be dictated by realities over which so true a friend of Israel's as Alexander Haig is not the master. They are determined by men like Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defense, and by influential circles bewitched by the Saudi dybbuk to borrow the bon mot of William Safire.

However, not only in other adminstration departments, but in Haig's own State Department, there are "foxes loose in the vineyards" -- as attested by the current goings-on behind the scenes in the Security Council on the matter of sanctions against Israel. In his talks with Begin, Percy saw fit to promise -- and he surely did so with the backing of senior, authoritative circles in the administation -- that the United States would veto sanctions against Israel. Also, Haig himself, in talks with Ambassador 'Evron and with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, pledged that the United States would, exercise its right of veto to quash any resolution calling for sanctions on Israel. Moreover, as far as is known here, the Americans also made this plain to the Syrians, the authors of the extremist Security Council draft resolution. But behold, news has reached Jerusalem that someone in the State Department is trying to pull a fast one behind Haig's back also on this sensitive matter. It has been learned that the "lower echelons" in the State Department have been trying for a "compromise" -- namely, that the Security Council resolution should not demand sanctions against Israel in categorical fashion, but on a voluntary basis. Of course, this will enable the United States to not volunteer for sanctions, while all other countries will do as they see fit.

Upon hearing this news, Israel at once sounded the alarm and the urgent handling of the affair went right up to Haig. The secretary of state was asked: "What's cooking in the State Department?" He too, was aghast at this "cooking." He immediately phoned the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Ms Jean Kirkpatrick. She did not know a thing about it. He then explained to her his personal, adamant view about sanctions and asked her to "be sure no mistakes were made": sanctions were to be opposed outright, and there must be no wheeling-dealing. However, the fact that in this affair, too, it took the personal involvement of the secretary of state to hold the line just goes to show that somewhere in the administation certain elements are at work inspiring the "lower echelons" to seek a "compromise" at Israel's expense. Not that such goings-on are an innovation. They also happened under Jimmy Carter and were later self-righteously described by the president himself as "short circuits."

Haig stepped in in good time to avert such a "short circuit" and this for two reasons: first, because he is a friend, second, because there would obviously not be much sense to his visiting Israel in the wake of such a "short circuit," not to mention the fact that nobody in Israel would have then believed that Washington really wanted to turn a new leaf.

Haig was in a hurry to get to Israel. Evidently he regards his forthcoming visit as important and urgent. Initially, when the idea of a visit was first broached in a conversation with Ambassador 'Evron, Haig said it was his intention to visit Israel, as well as Egypt, as the end of January, mainly in an effort to speed up the autonony talks and try for the signing of an agreement on autonomy prior to completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982. Speaking to David Kimche, Haig mentioned early February as the date for his visit.

This week we were informed that he would be coming next week. The explanation was that the secretry of state would be "in the vicinity" (in Brussels for a meeting fo NATO delegates). The explanation certainly stands up from the "technical" point of view. Nevertheless, it apparently does not explain everything. After all, saving a few hours flight does not generally set the timetable for the travels of a secretary of state, certainly not one representing a superpower. This only goes to show that Haig, like others in the U.S. administration, has reached the conclusion that the misunderstandings which have arisen with Israel, including the "penalties" inflicted upon it, do not serve the best interests of the United States. The more Israel is made to look neglected by the United States -- be it only an optical illusion -- the more independent are its reactions. If there is one thing that scares Washington nowadays it is a mist of uncertainty over the doings and intentions of Israel. What was the information that Senator Percy was most anxious to learn from Begin and with which he immediately ran to phone President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig? What is Israel doing to do it the tension continues increasing in Lebanon? Will Israel withdraw from Sinai by the deadline set in the peace treaty with Egypt?

At last, the administration was able to heave a sigh of relief. Percy informed Reagan on Begin's behalf that Israel would not start action against Lebanon or the Syrians, and that the withdrawal from Sinai would take place on time, so, there was reason for relief. But behold, only 2 days later Israel had again become a "nuisance." Suddenly Washington learned that Israeli aircraft were making reconnaissance flights between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The Israeli Embassy in Washington was immediately asked what sort of flights they were and what their purpose was. At the same time, the Americans have been trying to clarify the matter in Tel Aviv with the defense establishment. In sum, these Israelis are unpredictable....

The Americans had a hard time trying to get Israel to stop its flights around the Saudi base at Tabuk, and, lo and behold, Israeli aircraft were appearing in the vicinity of Saudi Arabia. The Americans were disturbed at the thought of the aftermath if Saudi aircraft went up and were shot down by Israel. What would then happen to Washington's sensitive ties with Saudi Arabia? Suppose Saudi Arabia got "hurt"; how would this affect its standing as a factor utilized of late by Washington to either moderate the PLO (think of all the efforts Washington has made recently to refrain the terrorists in Lebanon from doing anything that Israel mighy regard as a violation of the cease-fire and which serve as an excuse to operate against Lebanon) or to serve as a "go-between" with the Syrians? After all, an Israeli strike at the moderate Suadi Arabia may upset who knows how many moves in the political sphere (the Fahd plan) and on the military sphere.

There is no other choice, the Americans will say, but to enter into a dialogue with... Menahem Begin. (Only a short while ago, Ambassador Samuel Lewis delivered a lecture in New York to the Council for Internaional Relations, and he admitted that there was "no other choice" but to come to terms with Begin. The audience could have received the impression that, if it were up to the Americans, they would rather have the Alignment in office....) Of late, the appraisal has gained currency that this Begin-Sharon team is liable to give no end of trouble if it is excessively provoked, and the prime minister's much-publicized conversation with Ambassador Lewis, which was interpreted as a whack at the Reagan administration for its de facto treatment of Israel as a vassal, never mind the signing of the memorandum of understanding calling it an ally. That out-of-the-way conversation with Lewis only confirmed the appraisal of the potential troubles from Israel.

Have not various circles in Washington started a guessing game as to what Israel's next move will be after the Golan Heights Law? One guess if "transfer of the Prime Minister's Office to east Jerusalem," while another is "annexation of Judaea and Samaria," which could have but one significance: an end to Camp David and a halt to the withdrawal from Sinai.

The sensitivity of Washington which is now apparently convinced that the method of "penalizing" Israel, while undoubtedly harmful to Israel, may also be harmful to the United States and prejudicial to its policy in the region (Begin's remark about his going on his broken leg to the nation and proposing that it eat bread and butter rather than surrender to the United States, did not go unnoticed. This sensitivity may explain the urgency with which Secretary of State Haig is now trying to move things on, with the help of a personal note from President Reagan to Menahem Begin.

On the agenda of the Haig-Begin talks in Jerosalem there will be three focal topics; first, smoothing the rough edges of relations between the two countries, marred largely by Washington's extreme reaction to the Golan Law. This smoothing process requires prompt lifting of all "suspensions," revival of the memorandum of understanding, accompanied by a pledge that it will never again serve as a political weapon against Israel in the course of Arab-Israel neogtiations as a whole, nor in the dialogue between Washington and Jerusalem in particular. Second, serious examination of the possibilities of reaching a basic understanding on the substance of autonomy. And third, the reaching of a full understanding on a topic that has thus far escaped the headlines: the fate of the islands of Tiran and Sanafir on completion of Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. And, of course, what is Israel's attitude going to be if the present situation persists in Lebanon which to all intents and purposes has been annexed by Syria while the terrorists there, with Soviet encouragement, are busy setting up what amounts to a full-scale military infrastructure? How much longer will the prime minister be able to "jest" with every American who comes here, asking if anyone has by any change lately seen Philip Habib, who was designated by President Reagan to get the Syrian missiles out of the Lebanese Al-Biqa'?....

In this respect, special importance is attached to Haig's visit to Israel a few months before completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

There is no doubt that Haig shows sensitivity and understanding for Israel's positons.

These two islands, which command the entrance of the Gulf of Elat and which in the past were twice conquered by Israel (in the 1956 Sinai campaign and in the 1967 Six Day War), are deemed to be Saudi soil. In 1951, when the Saudis wanted to enable An-Nasir to impose a naval blockade on Israel in that area and prevent the passage of ships to East Africa and the Near East. The Saudis handed the isles to Egypt. Indeed, by their control of these isles the Egyptians were able to hamper Israel's freedom of navigation.

The Island of Tiran, the westernmost of the group of islands in the straits, covers an area of 58 square kms. The island of Sanafir is closer to the Saudi coast, some 3.5 kms east of Tiran (which is 8.8 kms long) as against Tiran's 12 kms, and it is 6.3 kms wide against Tiran's 11 kilometers). After the 6-Day War, the Saudis "remembered" that these were under their sovereignty and exerted pressure (on the Americans. of course) to restore their sovereignty. Under the Camp David accords, these barren islands should be returned to Egypt. Saudi Arabia is now once again claiming them. Under the peace treaty, the two islands are part of the "buffer zone" between Egypt and Israel, and should consequently be under control of the Multinational Force and Observers [MFO]. However, since there is a Saudi demand, there is of course reasonable fear that someone or some group in Washington will contend that there can be no question of annoying the Saudis on this matter.

This week, in anticipation of his coming here, Haig was asked, what is the U.S. position? Israel's position, he was told, is clear; Israel did not sign a peace treaty with Saudi Arabia and will not agree to hand over these islands to Saudi control. Haig was treated to a "repetition" of the history of the islands and the purpose for which they were handed to Egypt. Does it stand to reason that Israel will agree to these islands being restored now to Saudi Arabia, so that they might once again be turned into an offensive base against Israel?

We are told that Haig displayed full understanding for Israel's position, but raised the "legal aspect" of the problem. Israel replied that the "legal" aspect was totally irrelevant in this situation. What counts is insuring freedom of navigation, and so long as there is no peace treaty between Israel and Saudi Arabia, these islands will not be under Saudi control. It is up to the MFO to supervise thse islands, as well as any other area marked within the "buffer zone" under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

At this stage, Haig was able to promise that on his visit next week to Cairo he would speak to the Egyptians about it. It is reasonable to assume that as long as Israel has not completed its Sinai withdrawal, it is the "boss" in Tiran and Sanafir. This in itself is sufficient to convince both the Americans and the Egyptians that they must reach an understanding with Israel on this matter.

When the Cabinet discussed the Golan Heights Law, the question was raised: What would Israel do if the Egyptians opposed the Golan Law to the point of adversely affecting the Camp David accords? The prime minister's reply left no room for doubt. Israel would not carry out the last phase of the Sinai withdrawal. Hence, the conclusion to be drawn is clear also regarding the question of what will happen if the "clarifications" now urged by Israel about Tiran and Sanafir fail to satisfy it.

As for autonomy, which Haig wants to look into thoroughly to see what can really be done to hasten the sterile process of the negotiations which drags on and on without an end in sight. In this matter, Israel has no means of pressuring Egypt and cannot make completion of the withdrawal from Sinai conditional on the establishment of autonomy, for Israel itself has claimed that there is no linkage between the two. However, the United States fears that each and every dispute and clash of opinions between Egypt and Israel is liable to assume undesirable dimensions. Therefore, Haig is also trying to defuse the land-mine called autonomy which stands in the way of peace between Egypt and Israel.

It has not been learned here of any new ideas that the U.S. secretary of state may be bringing in his bag, other than the new-old idea of influencing Israel into agreeing that the Arabs of east Jerusalem be allowed to participate in elections to the autonomy institutions. Begin is opposed to this, for "Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," is not part of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, which are the sole areas to which the autonomy applies. The Americans nevertheless hope that it may yet be possible to achieve a breakthrough in the matter of the inhabitants of east Jerusalem (MK Yitzhaq Rabin, for example, has publicly expressed himself in favor of granting the Arab inhabitants of east Jerusalem the right to vote for the autonomy institutions, and if they succedd in this, then it will be that much easier for them to influence the inhabitants of Nabulus to participate in elections to the autonomy institutions.

In the team accompanying him, Haig is bringing along the American representatives who played an active part in the autonony negotiatons lead by special Ambassador Sol Linowitz. For a start, before the Americans submit proposals on how to proceed from here on, Haig wants to establish clearly what is deemed to have been agreed upon thus far, and to isolate the points still in dispute.

There is no knowing whether the fact that the handling of the autonomy issue will henceforth rest personally with Haig, as announced, is going to contribute to progress in the talks.

The concept of "full autonomy" (for the inhabitants and not for the territories) has a different meaning for Begin than for the Egyptians. And so far the Americans, too, have understood this. Of one thing, it would seem, the Americans are convinced; they cannot expect an Israeli withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria, as proposed in the Saudi plan, and they realize that the sole practical solution is autonomy on the principles of Camp David. Does Haig's readiness to apply himself personally to the matter, in the hope of bringing it to a conclusion before April 1982, herald a turn in the U.S. position toward a rapprochement with Israel?

The answer to this question depends on another question: Does the United States still believe that only progress on the Palestinian issue can promote its own interests in the region, including the Persian Gulf? In the beginning, even President Reagan was actually inclined not to link the two. After a while, under Saudi influence, the U.S. administration changed course. Now it will be interesting to hear what Alexander Haig is bringing along.

On the third and crucial question that will dominate the talks with him -- the situation in Lebanon -- Haig wil not be the only one allowed to do the asking. The prime minister will wish to ask the U.S. secretary of state how the United States conceives the solution to the problem in the light of Reagan's personal letter to Begin, in which it is clearly stated that the Syrians must return to the status quo ante. The United States knows that if it is unable to bring this about then it is "leaving" the initiative in the matter to Israel. Also, on this score, it is well to pay attention to what was said this week by MK Yitzhaq Rabin -- and not only Begin and Sharon -- as to what Israel must do if the northern settlements are again shelled from Lebanon. In a word: enter Lebanon and set things in order there. It would seem that the United States is not indifferent to such appraisals.

In Begin's close entourage, it is being pointed out with some satisfaction that, contrary to what certain circles in Israel and the United States feared as to the consequences of the government's "adventurous move" on the Golan Heights, the world did not get all that upset about it: neither Mitterrand's France, which did not cancel his visit to Israel; nor Ceausescu's Romania, which sent the president's personal envoy to the prime minister (and agreement was reached on the need to strengthen the ties between the two countries...); nor did the European Community get overly excited. Even Lord Carrington maintained a conspicuous degree of restraint.

Only the U.S. administration was seized with panic and resorted to "suspensions," but was quick to realize that the "penalties" did not bring Israel to her knees. This panic merely cast the United States in an unbecoming light in the eyes of the world, not just in the eyes of Israel: U.S. disavowal of written agreements.

So, when the U.S. secretary of state comes here, he will be requested to hear and not only to be heard. So long as Israel has a say in the Sinai and also in Lebanon, Tabuk and in Iraq -- it too will have to be heard.

IDF RADIO REPORTS HAIG ARRIVAL, REMARKS

TA140843 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0821 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Report by Ya'aqov Elon from Ben-Gurion Airport on U.S. Secretary of State Haig's arrival -- live]

[Text] [Elon] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig landed a few minutes ago at Ben-Gurion Airport. Foreign Minister Shamir is now welcoming the U.S. secretary of state:

[Shamir -- in English; remarks intercepted in progress] ...has come to advance the achievement of peace. We, the Government of Israel, will do our utmost to help and to work together towards this important and vital course. We are looking forward to successful and fruitful discussions. I wish you a pleasant and successful stay. Thank you.

[Haig -- in English] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shamir. First, I want to emphasize what a pleasure it is for me and my colleagues to return once again to Israel. We come with a sense of satisfaction that the prime minister's recent accident is well on the mend and I know I speak for President Reagan in wishing a full and complete recovery from that unfortunate incident.

We came here primarily to focus on the peace process in accordance with the Camp David accords and especially the autonomy talks. As you know the resumption of those talks with renewed momentum began this past fall and I think it is clear that the activity of the working group has made important progress. In Washington, the President and I concluded that the time had come in the process of these autonomy talks for high-level review of their current status, to see whether or not it would be possible to bring about in the near term even more expedited treatment of these autonomy questions. Now, during the period I will be here in Israel, that will be our main focus, in these talks. On this occasion I want to reiterate that the central aspect of American policy -- the unshakable aspect -- is a dedication to the security and well-being of Israel. I also want to reemphasize that a central aspect of President Reagan's foreign policy is his dedication to the Camp David peace accords and the efforts to enhance security and well-being of all the states in the region [word indistinct]. We're very glad to be here and look forward to constructive discussions. Thank you.

[Elon] The U.S. secretary of state expresses his gratitude and leaves with a rather large entourage of people coming with him from Cairo, including U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and the U.S. Embassy personnel who came to the airport to meet him.

The U.S. secretary of state was welcomed here by the foreign minister, the deputy foreign minister, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche.

From here, Haig leaves for a first talk with Foreign Minister Shamir. A heavy schedule awaits him in Israel, although his visit here is longer than originally planned. About a month ago it was planned for 4 hours at most, but then it was postponed due to events in Poland.

In the early afternoon he will meet with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, in Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Later, an internal consultation of the U.S. team will take place and still later Haig will hold a personal talk with Prime Minister Begin, the first of the two talks they are scheduled to have. This will be held in the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. The talk will be joined after a while by ministers Shamir, Sharon and Burg.

Haig this evening is also supposed to see Mrs Avital Shcharansky, the wife of prisoner of Zion Anatoly Shcharansky. She will of course ask him to act on behalf of her husband.

Tomorrow he is scheduled to have meetings with Alignment leaders Peres and Eban. Later he will hold a meeting with the autonomy ministerial team.

At noon tomorrow he will leave Israel after a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Shamir. Before that he will meet with the prime minister for a tete-a-tete talk, which will conclude his brief visit to Israel.

HAIG-SHAMIR MEETING DEDICATED TO ISRAELI VIEW

TA141212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister dedicated their first working meeting to Israel's view of the nature of autonomy. Our correspondent reports that Haig received from his Israeli interlocutors detailed answers on our positions. He said he has a strong desire to reach some agreement on the autonomy before Israel completes the Sinai withdrawal on 26 April. Haig is now in the King David Hotel; in an hour he will meet with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Further Details

TA141322 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1257 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Unattributed correspondent's report]

[Text] The first talk, which was held in the Foreign Ministry and lasted about 2 hours, was an introduction to the 2 days of talks to be held by Alexander Haig in Jerusalem, especially the talk with the prime minister at 1700 [1500 GMT]. The Israeli interlocutors repeated to Haig that if he needs further clarifications, if he has more questions, he should be sure that the prime minister, who is the greatest expert on autonomy affairs in Israel, will supply him with the answers. Haig accepted this.

Haig said he has not come to apply pressure to Israel, that there is no target date that should be kept but that as he emphasized, everything should be done in order to achieve some agreement on the autonomy before April 1982.

He brought with him some news of Egyptian preparedness in principle for the holding of negotiations, but our impression is that he does not bring with him much more than this from the Egyptian side.

The Israeli side today supplied Haig with many answers. He came with a paper prepared in advance, asked one question after the other -- easy as well as difficult questions -- and received detailed answers, especially from the foreign minister and the deputy foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry director general and the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser. He opened with difficult questions. In this part Haig includes the issue of possibly giving voting rights to east Jerusalem residents. The known Israeli answer on this matter is negative. Israel is not ready to compromise on this point.

In a few minutes another meeting with Haig -- this time with Defense Minister Sharon -- will begin in the King David Hotel. Afterward the U.S. team will hold a consultation. Later Haig will have today's most important meeting: with Prime Minister Begin in Begin's residence in Jerusalem. The two will meet alone and will later be joined by senior officials and ministers.

HAIG MEETINGS WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS, SHARON

TA141540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state is currently meeting with the prime minister at the latter's residence. Earlier, he held a series of meetings with the foreign minister, the defense minister and their aides. Our political correspondent, Gad Becker, reports on Haig's talks from our mobile unit near the prime minister's residence.

[Becker] Alexander Haig today posed a long series of questions. At this stage, all the questions refer to the autonomy. As far as is known, Israel's replies are based on positions previously raised in the negotiations in the past few weeks. Haig opened with a question on an issue he described as difficult: the right of inhabitants of east Jerusalem to vote for the autonomy's institutions. The Israeli reply was rational and in the negative.

Haig was presented with clarifications and explanations about another series of issues: settlements within the boundaries of the autonomy, the size and authority of the autonomy's council and the problems of land and water. In his meeting with the defense minister which ended a few minutes ago at the King David Hotel, Haig discussed the security questions related to the autonomy: how does Israel regard the IDF's presence in the field and what will be the distribution of duties between the IDF and the strong police force decided upon in the peace accords regarding the handling of internal security issues. Haig emphasized that there was no target-date for concluding the negotiations. However, an effort should be made to reach some kind of agreement on the autonomy before April 1982. Haig spoke about Egypt's readiness to join the effort but did not disclose anything about any new ideas or positions he had heard during his stay in Cairo

The Israeli evaluation is that Egypt still does not intend to reach an agreement in principle on the autonomy before the Sinai withdrawal has been completed. Haig has not yet presented the U.S. proposals to promote the negotiations. U.S. sources say that this will be done in the next stage, after all the facts in the field have been learned.

In the working meeting at the Foreign Ministry the Israeli interlocutors referred the guest to the prime minister for further clarifications. The prime minister was described as the best expert on autonomy issues in Israel. The meeting with Mr Begin is currently underway at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. A working luncheon is scheduled for this evening where Foreign Ministry officials will raise issues other than the autonomy. It was implied that Israel is striving to reach understandings with the United States on several issues related to the situation in the region, even after April 1982.

HAIG ENDS MEETING WITH BEGIN, MAKES STATEMENT

TA141744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1735 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The meeting at the prime minister's residence has ended. The U.S. secretary of state has already left for his hotel. We were not overly enlightened by his remarks upon emerging from the meeting with the prime minister.

The reports we broadcast earlier were confirmed by Secretary Haig. He said he came to this region to learn. He will return to Washington where the opinions he heard in Cairo and Jerusalem would be evaluated and he will later return to this region. Haig was asked: Who will return to the region? He replied that either he himself or a senior representative on his behalf. Here are Haig's remarks:

[Begin Haig recording -- in English] Ladies and gentlemen: We have been very busy today. We have had good discussions after our arrival this morning with Foreign Minister Shamir and his colleagues. I have just completed a lengthy discussion with the prime minister. I am extremely pleased to see his state of health and that he is well on his way to full recovery after the unfortunate accident. We had a very good and extensive exchange of views on a number of issues.

I met also today with Defense Minister Sharon. We have discussed global issues, regional issues, bilateral issues, and the main focus, of course, has been on the topic of autonomy which we are seeking to contribute to the momentum and progress with a view toward hopefully having an early agreement but without deadlines, of course. [end recording]

Further Details

TA141843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] At the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, Secretary Haig met privately with Menahem Begin this evening. Later they were joined by delegations from the two countries, including the Israeli Ministers Shamir, Sharon and Burg. That meeting ended over 30 minutes ago. After the meeting, Secretary of State Haig spoke to waiting newsmen, including reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin Haig recording] ...after our arrival this morning, with Foreign Minister Shamir and his colleagues. I have just completed a legnthy discussion with the prime minister. I am extremely pleased to see his state of health and that he's well on the way to full recovery after the unfortunate accident. We've had a very good and extensive exchange of views on a number of issues. I met also today with Defense Minister Sharon. We have discussed global issues, regional issues, bilateral issues and the main focus, of course, has been on the topic of autonomy, which we are seeking to contribute to the momentum and progress with a view toward hopefully having an early agreement, but without deadlines, of course. I think that's....

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Secretary, now that you've begun to hear the Israeli positions and you've also heard the Egyptian's positions, do you think that the task ahead of you with regard to reaching an autonomy agreement is perhaps more difficult than you may have anticipated?

[Haig] Well, I want to remind you that we have been a full partner in this process from the beginning and it got into the most detailed of discussions, starting this past fall. We've had both of our ambassadors and our own team participating, so we are well aware of the attitudes of the parties. That's not to suggest to you that there are not important differences still in the process, but we've been aware of those differences and what we are seeking is ways to resolve them.

[Beh-'Ami] Have you brought any proposals of your own....

[Haig] No, we didn't come here with any formulas, formulae, however you want to describe them. I see I've been condemned to speak latin in my own country because Haig speak is difficult.

But, no, we are here to be a catalyst, a full partner. We will go home after we get the views here in Israel and assess positions that we've heard in both capitals and return and discuss them further and we want to go home after we complete our discussions here and assess the overall situation and make determinations that could include a consideration of a high-level negotiator, it could consider rejecting that concept for something different, but, hopefully, more effective.

[Unidentified correspondent] Was there any discussion of the strategic cooperation agreement?

[Haig] We were not here to discuss that today and we have not.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Secretary, I understand that you're going to try and find out whether Jordan would be interested in participating. Until now they have made it very clear that they are not interested. Why do you think that you can persuade them to get involved? Or, how do you think....

[Haig] Well, if I answered your, that question, that would assume the premise that the question was correct. I am not aware that we have made such an objective. We are now dealing with the Camp David framework as it was agreed upon, as it is in the treaty of peace, and I think that's the first hurdle that we have to overcome. [end recording]

DAVAR ON ISSUES FOR HAIG-LABOR MEETING

TA131514 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Jan 82 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Shlomo Ginosar]

[Text] A Labor Party delegation will confer will U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who is scheduled to arrive in Israel tomorrow, and will make it plain to him that the United States must exercise its influence on Egypt to make it reach an agreement on the autonomy before April 1982. The delegation will apparently include Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres and Knesset Members Abba Eban and Yitzhaq Rabin.

The Alignment's political forum (the Knesset's faction executive and its representatives on the defense and foreign affairs committee) yesterday discussed the document on the autonomy which MK Peres had earlier presented to the faction's plenum. The forum decided to reformulate the document to include the observations of MK's Rabin and Sarid regarding the source and range of authority of the autonomy's institutions.

MK Yosi Sarid criticized the document saying that "it does not hold water." He added that if the Alignment had nothing to say as an alternative to the government's position on the issue of the autonomy it had better keep quiet, but if it had something to say then it should do it out loud. MK Sarid suggested that the Alignment's document on the autonomy should contain three main points:

-- The source of authority of the elected administrative council will not originate with the military government but with the agreement proper.

-- The autonomy's administrative council will be awarded full authority except on foreign affairs and security matters.

-- The Arab citizens of East Jerusalem will be given the right to vote for the autonomy's institutions.

MK Rabin firmly rejected the approach, contending that the Alignment should not state its specific positions on the issue of the autonomy today, so it is not accused of interfering with the negotiations that the government is conducting with Egypt and the United States and of undermining the government's position. MK Rabin said that if an agreement on the autonomy is not reached by April it is doubtful whether the Camp David accords would continue to be the basis for a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict, beyond the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. MK Rabin believes that in order to reach the vital goal of an agreement on the autonomy, Israel must make its positions on this issue more flexible and it must raise proposals in tune with the principles set at the time by Ambassador Sol Linowitz:

-- The source of authority of the autonomy's elected administrative council are the Camp David accords (rather than the Palestinian people, as Egypt suggests, or the military government, as proposed by the State of Israel).

-- The U.S. proposal about the size of the administrative council (30 to 35 members rather than 15 to 16 suggested by the Israeli Government) must be accepted on the condition that this council is not a legislative entity. The philosophical argument, the legislative power or the right to legislate regulations should be stopped. MK Rabin claims that one should take into account that the autonomy's council would also be dealing with legislative matters such as budgets, for example.

-- About one-half of the state-owned land in Judaea and Samaria should be placed under the administrative management of the council so that it can carry out its duties concerning regional development. Israel would not be able to develop water resources in the territories without the approval of the autonomy council, and, likewise, the latter would not be able to do so without Israel's approval.

MK Rabin believes that one should not make concessions on security matters, whether it refers to the IDF's freedom to move in the territories or to arrangements to assure internal security.

MK Rabin believes that if Egypt accepted these proposals and that if it emerged that an agreement on the autonomy depends on granting the Arab inhabitants of east Jerusalem with the right to vote, Israel should agree to grant such a right because it would involve the right to vote for the council rather than the right to be elected. The east Jerusalem inhabitants would be able to cast their vote in Bethlehem. If the Egyptians did not accept these proposals MK Rabin believes that the matter should be thought over. MK Peres pleaded with the members of the forum to voice a unanimous position so as not to create the impression that the party's avowed and official position is vague. Both Rabin and Sarid said they realized they were a minority but, nevertheless, they would speak their minds if they were asked to.

All the participants in the political forum were firmly opposed to the proposal to grant the right to vote for the autonomy's institutions.

Prior to the debate at the political forum MK Shim'on Peres presented the document on the autonomy to the Alignment faction plenum. He said the government is currently holding negotiations and, therefore, it was feared that if the Alignment were to raise more far-reaching proposals the government would accuse it of placing a burden on its contacts with Egypt.

Among other things, the document presented to the Alignment's political forum states that if an agreement on the specifics of the autonomy plan cannot be reached with Egypt despite Israeli efforts, the Alignment would call on the government to reach a general agreement on principles which would leave the disputed issues to be negotiated between Israel, Egypt, the United States and the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Such an agreement would at least guarantee the commitment of Egypt and the United States to the course of the autonomy and to the Camp David framework after April 1982.

Haig Meets Party Leaders

TA150823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] In their talk with the U.S. secretary of state, Labor Party leaders abstained from raising the proposal to enable east Jerusalem residents to vote in the elections to the autonomy institutions. They said after the talk Haig knows the matter caused a dispute in the opposition and that Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal had not received a majority there.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that Knesset members Peres, Rabin and Eban met with Haig in Jerusalem and heard from him about the chief difficulties in the negotiations: the subject of the powers of the administrative council, the size of the council and its composition, the questions of land and water, security arrangements in the autonomous areas and the question of east Jerusalem. Abba Eban told our correspondent at the end of the meeting that Haig had gone out of his way to dispel the impression that the United States relinquished its consistent support of Camp David. Eban said he and his colleagues tried to persuade the U.S. secretary of state about the necessity for substantial progress in the talks even before the Sinai withdrawal.

HAIG MAY ACT AS U.S. AUTONOMY NEGOTIATOR

TA150614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is likely to decide that he will act as America's senior autonomy negotiator and return to the Middle East next month to head a major U.S. push for a breakthrough in the negotiations. Political affairs reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says this is the considered assessment of a number of American and Israeli officials connected to the Haig visit.

[Ben-'Ami] The U.S. secretary of state has made it clear that his present trip to the region, involving 2 days of talks each in Egypt and Israel, is a fact-finding mission. This not only means that Mr Haig himself is taking time to get a personal, direct, on-the-spot explanation of the positions of Israel and Egypt on all aspects of autonomy, but it also brings the U.S. official directly into the autonomy issue, and a number of Israeli and American officials say their assessment is that Mr Haig himself will be the chief U.S. autonomy negotiator, at least for the immediate months ahead, in a personal effort to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations.

They cite three particular reasons for that assessment: One: That after his discussions in Cairo and a full day of talks with Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Begin, the secretary of state has indicated a guarded optimism that differences in the positions of Israel and Egypt can be overcome and success in that would be a prestige coup for the secretary. Two: A sense of urgency by Mr Haig and the U.S. administration regarding the need for some achievement in the peace process involving Egypt and Israel before the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The involvement of the U.S. secretary of state in the autonomy talks would ensure direct and decisive American action to prod both Egypt and Israel into reaching at least a substantial, if not complete, autonomy agreement by the April withdrawal date. The third reason: U.S. concern that, unless there is momentum in the peace process, specifically the autonomy issue, there may instead be a heightened sense of isolation and frustration in Israel, instability in the region and crisis situations.

This morning Mr Haig will have a lengthy meeting with all the Israeli ministers involved in the autonomy negotiations and then a second and final meeting with Prime Minister Begin. The prime minister's spokesman says Mr Begin commented, after his first round of talks with Mr Haig last night, that he believes the talks have got off on the right foot and officials I spoke with last night believe that the U.S. secretary of state, who flies back to Washington this afternoon, will return to the area, probably at the end of next month, bringing with him specific U.S. proposals and a personal determination to achieve some signed Egyptian-Israeli autonomy document by April.

[Studio news reader] Our political affairs reporter adds that the secretary of state is dispatching a senior aide, Nicholas Veliotes, to Amman and then to Riyadh at the end of the secretary's visit here. Veliotes, who is assistant secretary of state for the Middle East and South Asia, will be briefing the leaders of Jordan and Saudi Arabia on Haig's talks in Egypt and Israel.

MORNING PRESS COMMENTS ON SECRETARY HAIG'S VISIT

TA150630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Secretary Haig's talks in Israel deminate the front pages. Each paper emphasizes a different point.

The independent HA'ARETZ quotes Haig as saying that if Egypt breaks the peace treaty, it will result in a crisis in relations with the United States.

The Histadrut's DAVAR quotes American and Israeli sources for its conclusion that the United States has no intention of trying to bring other countries into the peace talks.

MAPAM's 'AL HAMISHMAR carries Haig's statements to reporters after his meeting with Prime Minister Begin yesterday, that the United States would like to speed up the autonomy talks, but is setting no deadlines.

The front section of HATZOFE, the National Religious Party, did not reach the radio station this morning, but the inside part, with the paper's news analysis, did. There, political columnist Ya'Aqov Edelstein writes that the American task in the Middle East now really has little to do with autonomy. He feels the Americans are busy trying to keep the area calm, to prevent a flareup in Lebanon or trouble on the Syrian border. The United States does not want any surprises, especially when it is busy with Poland. As for the Egyptians, Edelstein writes, they prefer to negotiate on autonomy after Israel's final withdrawal from the Sinai. They will be better able to pressure Israel then and, the HATZOFE columnist concludes, at that point they will be able to draw the linkage sward, implying that the continutation of peace with Israel depends on an autonomy agreement.

A senior HA'ARETZ political analyst, writing under the name of Poles, says 3 years and 6 months after the Camp David agreements were signed, we may have arrived at the last moment to prevent the stop of the peace process. This does not mean that Egypt would break relations with Israel, but the treaty could take on the character of a nonaggression pact and no other Arab nations would join the process. Even though there would be embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv, it would weaken Israel's international position if it appears that As-Sadat made a mistake when he signed the peace treaty. If the autonomy talks fail, there will be no stopping other countries from suggesting new ideas to replace autonomy and it is hard to imagine, concludes Poles, that the Reagan administration, which has been battling for the Camp David process, would not, in the end, find one of the new ideas favorable. DAVAR's political columnist, Daniyel Bloch, writes that if Haig's goal is to achieve enough progress in the autonomy talks for an agreement on principles to be drown up before April, then all his efforts are doomed to failure. Haig's real purpose is to test the waters in Israel and Egypt, to see to it that Israel will have the excuse not to complete its withdrawal from the Sinai. The problem with the autonomy talks is so basic, concludes the Labor Party analyst, that no pressure of time or shuttle diplomacy can solve it.

Jerusalem POST

TA150908 Jerusalem POST in English 15 Jan 82 p 6

[David Landau commentary: "Mission Impossible"]

[Text] The conventional wisdom in Jerusalem, as in Washington, is that the U.S. administration has decided to "revive" the autonomy talks at this time as a way of warding off any further unpleasant "surprise" between now and 26 April. "Surprises" is used as a euphemism for unilateral and "provocative" actions which might be taken by Prime Minister Begin (a military campaign in the north, application of Israeli law and jurisdiction to the West Bank settlements) and which, in the American view, could jeopardize the peace process.

The Americans' concern and caution were heightened, of course, by the Golan Heights Law, which fell on them like a bomb out of a clear blue sky. Their reaction has been -- naturally and indeed, laudably -- to take diplomatic pre-emptive measures so as not to be caught napping again. By stepping up his involvement in the autonomy talks, which have been quietly and comfortably dormant for so long, Secretary of State Alexander Haig feels he will be able to keep a lid on things and deftly nurse Israel and Egypt through the coming, crucial 100 days.

There is no need to see this sentiment on Haig's part as being in any way slighting to Begin. On the contrary, Haig is seeking in effect, to help Begin help himself -- to help Begin carry out the Sinai withdrawal smoothly, as he clearly wants and intends to do, without being sidetracked by internal or external pressures.

But though Haig's goal is all to the good, the means he has chosen -- "reviving" the autonomy talks -- are ill-conceived and might well be counter-productive. Why stir this sleeping dog, autonomy, at such a sensitive time? Why run the risk of rekindling passions, hostilities, and, worst of all, rhetoric, between Israel and Egypt over issues that have proven intractable over two years and eight months of fitful negotiation?

Is there a bookie on earth who would give Haig a better than 5 percent chance of pulling off some meaningful progress in the autonomy talks before April?

The newsmen aboard Haig's plane into Cairo were told that what is lacking is the "political will" on the part of the Israeli Government to translate the Camp David accord into real autonomy on the ground. Is there any sign that such "political will" is evolving here?

Indeed, is this the politically propitious moment, given the volubility of the 'stop the withdrawal' movement, given the upcoming trauma in April, for Begin to demonstrate such political will be offering concrete concessions in the autonomy talks?

Nor is the time right for concessions from Egypt's point of view. Egyptian leaders in their public statements hardly bother to conceal Egypt's inescapably obvious interest in not concluding a 'declaration of principles' before April.

"We will spare no effort," Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali declared this week, "to keep the autonomy talks going." To keep them going (through April) -- yes. But preferably not getting anywhere. For any 'declaration of principles' that could conceivably be reached in the coming three months (barring unforseen and entirely unlikely Israel concessions) would promptly be rejected by the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world. The charge that Egypt is taking back its own land while betraying the Palestinians would be greatly strengthened, and Egypt's embarrassment deepened.

"To travel hopefully is better than to arrive" -- this old adage must therefore be the Egyptian watchword with regard to the autonomy talks at this delicate stage of the peace process.

The Egyptians moreover, can hardly ignore the logic of the presumption that Israel will be in a weaker position -- and therefore, perhaps, more conciliatory -- after the withdrawal than before it. Why then, from Cairo's standpoint, get down to the really gritty negotiating now?

Possibly Haig, in his effort to rebutt that logic, is playing on the fears and suspicions in many capitals that Begin might seek to evade or defer the withdrawal when the time comes, and is arguing to the Egyptians that an autonomy agreement is needed now to prod Begin along.

But the Egyptians, particularly their top policy-makers, are unlikely to be moved by that argument. They know Begin better than that (and perhaps better than Haig). They know that the Israeli leader is above all a man of honour whose word is his bond. Begin is not the man to reduce Israel to a political bankruptcy by failing to carry out its international undertakings.

Why, then, the concern in this article that Haig's "revival" of the autonomy talks could boomerang and actually endanger the scheduled withdrawal? The answer is that Begin, for all his honourable intentions, is not always in control, whether of events or of his own reaction to events.

The U.S. suspension of the memorandum of understanding as "punishment" for the Golan Law, and Begin's subsequent harangue of the administration, illustrate the point.

To revive" all the old autonomy disputes at this time, particularly the Jerusalem issue with its emotive impact, seems almost to court the danger of renewed rhetorical explosions. And there are forces in this country, indeed in Begin's own party, perhaps even in his Cabinet, that will seize upon these sparks of discord and try to fan them into a conflagration that could yet engulf the peace process.

There are such forces in Egypt, too. As Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali always says, the anti-peace circles in Israel and in the Arab world (including Egypt) are in "coalition."

The message to the secretary of state, therefore, should be: His stepped-up personal attention to the peace process at this moment is both welcome and necessary. High-profile hand-holding a la Philip Habib is demonstrably helpful and effective. Haig's own presence and involvement is a powerful stabilizing and reassuring factor during this nervous period in the whole area. But he might do well to think again about putting an accent on the autonomy talks and raising unfounded hopes of progress -- with the concomitant, dangerous, raising of tensions and emotions.

EUROPEAN SINAI FORCE PARTICIPATION TERMS RECEIVED

TA131616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] The ambassadors of four European countries which seek to participate on the Sinai multinational force, today presented the positions of their governments regarding the terms of their participation to Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. The Italian ambassador said after the meeting that the statements are not identical, and that every country gave its own view. The ambassadors were promised the subject would be discussed at the upcoming Cabinet session and then it will be learned whether Israel agrees to the participation in the force by the four countries.

European countries have adhered to the EEC decisions that the Palestinians should be given the right to self-determination, whereas Israel demands that the basis for participation is the Camp David agreements.

Likely To Accept

TA140803 Jerusalem POST in English 14 Jan 82 pp 1, 2

[By diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] Israel is likely to accept the latest letters from Britain, France, Italy and Holland on their prospective participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO]. This was the informed assessment in Jerusalem last night after the ambassadors of the four countries had delivered their letters to the director-general of the Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

The letters, although not identical but very similar and clearly closely coordinated, represent an obvious effort by the four countries to draft wording that would be acceptable to Israel without compromising their own positions on other aspects of the Middle East conflict.

Thus the letters reiterate the four countries' acceptance of the basic premise that participation in the MFO must be on the basis of the Israel-Egypt agreements under which the MFO was set up.

One key Israeli aid remarked last night that "apparently the four were persuaded by Secretary Haig to accept Israel's position of participation in the MFO."

Plainly it was no coincidence that the four delivered their letters on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit here -- and just days after he had conferred with their foreign ministers in Brussels.

Presumably Haig will apply his own persuasive powers on Begin and Shamir, if they are needed, during his talks with them today and tomorrow to ensure a favourable Israeli response to the letters. The secretary made it clear to newsmen on the plane to Cairo, and again at a press conference in Cairo yesterday, that he regards the four's participation in the Sinai force as virtually settled now.

Some observers predicted that Shamir would announce -- or at least indicate -- Israel's acceptance of the letters at his joint press conference with Haig tomorrow, in order to give the visiting secretary the credit for this successfully resolved diplomatic problem.

One problem that could still arise especially if the four letters are submitted to the Cabinet for approval, stems from the fact that the letters do not actually "endorse" the U.S.-Israeli statement on MFO participation, as Israel requested of the four last month.

The letters merely take note of "the views of the U.S. and Israel Governments" as expressed in the joint statement. They then go on to cite the key passage from a letter by British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, on behalf of the four, to Haig on November 26, which "clarified" the four's position. This read: "...neither the four, nor the (European Economic Community) ten have any intention of seeking to put any gloss on the various agreements entered into by Egypt and Israel, still less on the Egypt-Israel treaty of peace itself. We all recognize that the function of the MFO is as defined in the relevant Egyptian-Israeli agreements, no more and no less."

This remained the position of the four, the letters continue. And now the four propose that they discuss with Israel the "practical and legal arrangements" regarding the participation of their contingents in the MFO.

In addition -- and this is regarded as a new and positive element in the four's presentation -- the letters distinguish between the four's original "formal reply" to America's request that they join the MFO, and their later "statement" on the subject (made by each government to its parliament). It was these "statements" rather than the original, brief "formal reply" (the four points) that so incensed Israel and led to its "disqualification" of the four.

In the "statements" the four directly linked their would-be participation in the MFO to their "Venice declaration" on the Mideast conflict, with its call for the PLO to be "associated with" the peace process.

At the time (late November), the four governments deliberately blurred the distinction between the original "formal reply" and the additional "statement," presenting them as one single document in order to assuage Arab wrath at their willingness to participate in the Sinai force.

Now, there is a deliberate return to this distinction -- this time with the aim of assuaging Israel's earlier anger.

SINAI FORCE POSITION ON TIRAN DEMANDED

TA150535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Israel demands of the United States that the multinational force due to supervise the peace agreement in Sinai establish a permanent position on the Tiran island, not only to prevent Egypt from handing over the island, but also to prevent a blocking of the Straits of Tiran.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that this demand was raised last night at a meeting between Ari'el Sharon and Alexander Haig. Our correspondent notes that the demand took the U.S. delegation by complete surprise, as it had thought that Israel desires only guarantees that the island not be returned to Saudi Arabia. Our correspondent has learned Egypt informed Haig that it intends to set up a police station on Tiran, but Israel does not regard this as sufficient.

COMPROMISE REACHED OVER YAMIT GREENHOUSES

TA139830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] A compromise has been reached in Haruvit between the leaders of the Sinai withdrawal opponents on the one hand, and the commanding officer of the Southern Command and Defense Ministry officials, on the other. Jewish Agency workers will discontinue dismantling the area's greenhouses, and the opponents of the withdrawal will not build new ones.

EGYPT TO ALLOW DISMANTLING AFTER WITHDRAWAL

TA130959 Jerusalem POST in English 13 Jan 82 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Egypt has agreed to allow Israel to dismantle and remove equipment from the Rafah area after the final withdrawal on April 26, according to a highly placed source. He indicated last night that Egypt's consent to the idea was given some time ago.

The idea was conceived to avoid physical clashes between the Israel authorities and anti-withdrawal activists over the dismantling and removal of equipment.

The request to Egypt, and Egypt's consent, were to have been kept secret, and the high source expressed regret last night that word of the government's design had been leaked to the news media. (Israel television broadcast in its main newscast last night that Israel had asked Egypt to enable equipment to be removed after the withdrawal).

The course said some Israeli Government circles are not entirely confident that the understanding with Egypt would be workable after the pullback, and for that reason, the effort is being made to dismantle the greenhouses at Haruvit now.

BEGIN'S POPULARITY DOWN AFTER GOLAN LAW

TA141235 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] About 2 weeks after the Golan Heights Law, Prime Minister Menahem Begin's popularity dropped by one-fifth from what it was 1 month before that. This is revealed in a poll conducted for the monthly MONITIN by Dr Mina Tezmah, director of the "Dahaf" company's research institute. Answering the standard question, who is most qualified currently to serve as prime minister, Mr Begin gained this time 42.3 percent, compared to 52.3 percent in the November poll.

Other names mentioned by the interviewers received the following percentages: Yitzhaw Rabin -- 13.1 percent (12.7 percent in November); Shim'on Peres -- 7.1 percent (7.4); Yitzhaw Navon -- 5.4 percent (4.7); 'Ezer Weizman -- 2.7 percent (1.7); Ari'el Sharon -- 2.1 percent (1.1).

The December poll also shows a steep decline in the public's assessment of the Labor Party's role as a functioning opposition, an assessment not particularly high even before that. Whereas in the previous poll 2 out of 6 assessed the functioning of the Labor Party in the opposition positively -- as against 4 who gave it a negative rating -- in the last poll that proportion went down to only 2 out of 11.

CHAD

SOURCES BELIEVE SUDAN PLEDGE WILL UNDERCUT FAN

AB131755 Paris AFP in French 1129 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 13 Jan (AFP) -- Sudan's promise to no longer support the FAN has strengthened the Chadian Government's belief that, in the short run, Hissein Habre will no longer be able to continue his acts of rebellion against President Goukouni Oeuddei's legitimate regime, official sources states in Ndjamena on Wednesday. Time is working for us, the same sources observe, after Sudan promised full support to Chad in its determination to achieve national unity.

The same Chadian official sources consider as a political victory scored by Chad the fact that in the final communique [words indistinct] dissidence to which the Sudanese authorities will no longer grant assistance. It is recalled in Ndjamena that the Chadian Government had always accused Sudan of supporting the FAN which sought refuge there in December 1980 after being chased out of the Chadian capital by Libyan troops. But the tone has changed significantly in Ndjamena a day after President Goukouni's visit to Khartoum. The pessimism of the last few weeks has given way to a greater confidence and determination regarding the government's ability to control the military situation now with regard to the FAN.

Sources close the the Chadian state house say that Hissein Habre will now engage in a struggle for survival. Without any military assistance, without fuel or food supply, the FAN will gradually have to give in.

The first change in the official position in Chad is that the inter-African peacekeeping force is no longer considered inefficient and useless. It is recalled that the Chadian Government asked that the neutral force to take an active part in the fighting against the FAN, which was always ruled out by the OAU. The deployment of 3,000 Nigerian and Senegalese troops in Ati, 400 km north of Ndjamena alongside the Chadian National Army, is now viewed by President Goukouni Oueddei's government as protection against another FAN advance toward the capital.

Hissein Habre, it is stressed in Ndjamena, knows that the role of the inter-African force is to halt any possible fighting between the various political-military factions and he cannot, therefore, risk clashing with the regular army in the presence of the African peacekeeping forces. Reliable sources even say that government forces intend to conduct guerrilla operations against FAN positions, which are no longer at about 10 km from Ati and Oum Hadjer, the last to come under FAN control. Once these operations are accomplished -- they are intended to make the FAN retreat to the east -- government forces will once again take positions behind the defensive curtain which the neutral force constitute, in the eyes of the Chadian Government, in this key road communication sector to Ndjamena, the same sources said.

The guarded optimism of the Chadian authorities, however, contrasts with the disorganization of the regular army which, formed from variious factions, still has no cohesion and has soldiers who either are not prepared to go to war or are unskilled in bush fighting. The same optimism also belies the fact that the previous military offensive by the government against the FAN in eastern Chad ended in failure and that Abeche, which was the objective of such as operation, remains, together with the whole region, in the hands of Hissein Habre's men.

In any case, the Chadian Government, encouraged by Sudan's pledge of neutrality, seems willing to wage war against Hissein Habre's troops. Once again on Wednesday in Ndjamena, the authorities ruled out any idea of negotiating with Hissein Habre and the FAN.

ZAIRE

GOVERNMENT TO SEND ANOTHER 1,000 TROOPS TO CHAD

AB131253 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] From those who receive much, much will be demanded in return. Zaire has decided to double its stake in the Chadian affair: about 1,000 Zairian soldiers soon will go to Chad. They will reinforce the first contingent of about 1,000 Zairian soldiers already integrated into the inter-African force in Chad. This will make 2,000 soldiers of the Zairian Armed Forces in the service of peace. This is not at all negligible. Zaire is thus matching Nigeria which also must dispatch a contingent of 2,000 men to Chad.

Slowly but surely, the inter-African force is being fully established. In fact, the Paris conference of heads of state of France and Africa decided that this force should total 5,000 or 6,000 men. With the announcement of the forthcoming dispatch of the new Zairian contingent, this total will now be attained. What now remains to be known is, of course, how these peacekeeping troops will be utilized in Chad.

GHANA

NUNOO-MENSAH URGES PARTICIPATION IN REFORM

AB141752 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The chief of defense staff [CDS], Brig Nunoo-Mensah, has asked those involved in kalabule [profiteering] activities to change and participate in the reconstruction efforts while there is still time. Otherwise, they should be prepared to face the bitter side of the revolution. Brig Nunoo-Mensah was addressing managers of manufacturing and motor establishments at Burman Camp in Accra this morning. Yaw Asare Darko reports:

The atmosphere at the meeting was cordial. Those who had the chance to speak expressed their views frankly. Introducing the nearly 270 top management -- a respresentative from a cross-section of the manufacturing and motor sectors to the meeting -- Brig Nunoo-Mensah once again stressed the principal causes of the revolution and the commitment of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to carry it to its logical end.

[Begin Nun o-Mensah recording] We believe that we have a mission to work toward the betterment of the life of our people, especially those who are underpriviledged in the rural areas and so on. Therefore, in this task ahead, we might be denying ourselves all the comforts of life just to make sure that our people live a better life. Now there is a lot of doubts in the minds of many Ghanaians and some of your here that we are either communists or socialists or whatever it is, but as we have said over and over again, we don't really care about what labels people put on us. All that we are saying is that we are simple soldiers who want to activate a social revolution to change the lives of our people. Therefore, having known the aims and objectives of our revolution, I believe you will be in a position to contribute your quota.

The reason why we called you here this morning is this: I think you are all aware about the accusations and counteraccusations in the past of managers, sales managers and distributors being accused everyday and then about being involved in the so-called kalabule at all cost -- at the peril of our lives. We are determined. In our determination, we are prepared to remove any obstacle in our way. I think I have made that very clear. Now, we have information about many people who are doing this. We have gone quite slow because we know what we are doing. We are not going to rush to do anything stupid. But that doesn't mean that we don't know what we are about. We know, but at the appropriate time, when we strike we strike with all the force at our disposal. Now, what I want to say here is this: We are prepared to accept people who will repent and do the right thint but those who are determined to go along to destroy the society, we will not give them the chance at all to do that.

When we talk to Makola women, they tell us: Oh! We get the goods from the back door, from the managers and so on. New we have information, I am not saying that every manager is involved in this but when one or two are involved and they don't stop, it (?reflects) on all managers, all sales managers and so on. So, the warning I want to sound is this, that we are watching very carefully. People who are involved we know we don't want to act as of now. There is no point in amassing wealth only to be destroyed by someone. You know, it's rather useful to live a decent life. Acquire whatever you have legitimately rather than becoming involved in this -- to acquire wealth -- that will land you in trouble. I am only sounding this warning because I believe that we have something up ourselves. Therefore, if you don't toe the line of the revolution and are determined to be in our way, then you may have yourself to blame. [end recording]

Brig Nunoo-Mensah stressed the need for all Ghanaians to get involved in the revolution to restore sanity in the economy. Those who choose to sit on the fence will be pushed aside. While assuring the managers of the PNDC's determination to provide the necessary inputs, the CDS urged them to invest their resources in sectors that will bridge the yawning gap between the rich and the poor to avoid any social crisis likely to result when the gap is allowed to widen.

[Begin recording] It requires of all of us to live exemplary lives. For we as leaders, it is very important and I think that if we all can stop and live this kind of exemplary life, I am very sure that the society will start changing. The farmer sitting down there takes his cocoa across to Ivory Coast or Togo. This morning, he hears somebody in the government gets a kickback of some 2.3 million pounds; so he says to himself: "Am I the only Ghanaian to be carrying my cocoa 10 miles on my head to go and sell even if I am not paid promptly while the money I make is being (?taken off) by some other people into their banks?" I mean all this is very [word indistinct] to the people. So, we must learn. I know we are all sinners; we must try and repent. This is the hour of repentance. I am not preaching like I am preaching the gospel. But we must learn to repent because if we don't, a day will come, if you want to sit in Accra you don't see what goes on in Burma Camp when the guns are shooting. But I have seen it. It is not comfortable at all. Don't let it happen again! Next time, it may spread all over Accra, all over Ghana. We don't want that to happen. And if we try to create a condition of the haves and the have-nots, it would come. It's bound to explode. Unless we at the top meet the poor half-way and share our wealth with them, otherwise it will explode: I assure you of that. [end recording]

Some of the managers noted that the hardships caused by the high prices of goods have merely resulted from the problems encountered by the manufacturers. These include lack of adequate import licenses, theft, laziness on the part of some of the workers and high prices of raw materials. And they were hopeful that given the needed assistance, their contribution to the economic revival would be enhanced. Some urged the PNDC to impress on the workers their responsibilities alongside their rights. The managers also expressed concern about their weekly cash withdrawals being limited to 1,500 cedis and called on the PDNC to improve the situation. Otherwise, there will not be enough funds to cater for the workers' welfare.

38 PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

AB140713 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has ordered the immediate release of 38 persons from protective custody. They include four former Cabinet ministers and two former deputy ministers. The rest are former members of Parliament, all but one from the banned minority parties.

The former ministers are Dr George Benneh, Joe Reindorf, K.S.P. Jantuah and Dr Francis Acquah. The former deputy ministers are Dr E. Awumbila and Miss Adelaide Mate.

Some of the 32 former MP's released are L.P. Torsoo, John Asante, M.C. Tamakloe, E.W. Nortey, T.K. Afful, F.E. Eshun, Dr T.K. Aboagye, E.K. Adu, Nana Yamful Imraim and Martin Adane. Others are J.K. Obeng, B.B. Ofori, J. Asante-Fosuhene, Mr Badu-Nkansah, A.A. Abenyi, A.K. Okyere, L.K. Ablordepe, B.E.K. Kpesese, J.B. Yegbe and W.N. Grant.

The rest are Ofori Krabie, Baffour Osafo Gyawu, Dr G.K. Agama, K. Owusu-Sekyere, Dr S.K.A. Manson, G.K. Rockson, K. Yeboah Asante, Dr A.B. Ankomah, R.A. Basoah, K.P. Agyekum, J.A. Kuffour and R.I. Alhasan.

A statement issued by the council last night said their release is in accordance with the PNDC's policy of tapping and marshaling all the country's manpower resources for the total success of the nation's economy. It said those released may be part of various working committees that will be formed by the PNDC and if so appointed will work under the council's direction and supervision. The statement described the council's move as a first step toward political, social and economic magnanimity.

It will be recalled that in a broadcast on 5 January, the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lt Rawlings, stated among other things that the council intends to harness all talents in the nation, not just those of the youth, and the council is prepared to use even the talents of persons who have featured in the previous government in positions where they have shown their mettle or where they can make a contribution.

The statement said more releases will be made of persons whose innocence has been established by investigations being conducted by the PNDC. The council however warns that this first step of its magnanimity should not be taken for granted and that all those former ministers, MP's, party activists and others who have still not reported themselves but are on the run are only making it worse for themselves. They shall be hunted and brought to book.

146 REPORT TO ACCRA POLICE STATION AS OF 12 JAN

AB121931 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Ten more people have reported at the cantonments police station in Accra, bringing to 146 the number of people who have responded to the PNDC's [Provisional National Defense Council] call to report to the station for their own safety.

They include ministers, deputy ministers, MP's and People's National Party [PNP] functionaries. The breakdown of MP's who have reported, according to their parties, is PNP 24; PFP [Popular Front Party] 16; UNC [United National Convention] 12, and ACP [Action Congress Party], 6. No member of the SDF [Social Democratic Front] has so far reported. And among the three independent members in the dissolved Parliament, only one, Mr Owusu Sekyere of Sunyani, has reported.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT MP'S REPORT IN TAMALE

AB132103 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] The Tamale police have announced that three further MP's from the proscribed Social Democratic Front have reported at the police station. According to Chief Superintendent Dansau, Dr Abubacar Alhasan for Tamale, Prince Charleson Daniel for Zanlogu and Mr O.S. Muhamadu for (Nyana Nkwan) reported to the police last week.

He also said 24 people have been prosecuted in court for breaking the curfew. They were fined 200 cedis each.

MORE THAN 7,000 EXIT PERMITS GRANTED IN 2 DAYS

AB131416 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Over 7,000 exit permits have so far been issued to prospective travelers since the exercise started 2 days ago. Most of them are Ghanaians working in Nigeria. The process for the issue of the permits has been streamlined to make it easier for prospective applicants.

Speaking to a team of GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] correspondents, the chief immigration officer, Mr Nkrumah, said the exercise has now been centralized at the sports stadium from where prospective travelers obtain their application forms and return them after they had been filled. The forms are then sent to the Ministry of Interior Affairs where they are processed and the exit permits issued.

The chief immigration officer said at the start of the exercise, many of the applicants refused to surrender their passports for fear of losing them. He said, as a result, only passport size photographs are being demanded. Mr Nkrumah said the permits can be renewed by his office when they expire after the 72-hour period. He said this is the third such exercise in Ghana. The first two were after the 1966 and 1972 military takevoers. It is estimated that about 80,000 exist permits will be issued by the end of the exercise.

PNDC MEMBER HINTS AT PEOPLE'S DEFENSE GUIDELINES

AB131837 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Mr Chris Atim, has hinted that guidelines for the formation of People's Defense Committees may be published tomorrow. According to the GHANA NEWS AGENCY, he gave the hint at a rally of the Civil Servants Association at the ministry in Accra today. Mr Atim explained that instead of replacing the existing local trade unions, the committees will work with such unions. He said the committees, which are expected to be formed voluntarily at work places, towns and villages, will have a political purpose, that is, to identify national problems and offer suggestions for their solutions. Mr Atim said through the committees, workers can ensure that promotions are done strictly according to laid-down procedures.

Answering a question on profiteering and hoarding of commodities, Mr Atim made what he described as the PNDC's last appeal to market women, warning that the council's patience is running out. He, however, noted that soldiers' involvement in price control cannot be a permanent feature and asked workers in whose hands the destiny of the country lies to cooperate in eradicating all trade malpractices. Mr Atim therefore declared: When we begin to move, we expect the backing of the various People's Defense Committees to make sure that the exercise is not sabotaged by traders, especially in rural areas where they are likely to tell all sorts of lies to defeat the exercise.

MILITARY BURNS TWO KUMASI MARKETS AS WARNING

AB131924 Accra Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] The military in a special dawn exercise today destroyed the Mighty 18 and Aflao Border, two popular selling places in Kumasi. All tables and chairs at the two places were set on fire after warning to all traders in the city to reduce the prices of their wares. Explaining the exercise to newsmen later, the officer in charge of the operation said sellers at the two places refused to reduce the prices of their wares despite appeals to all traders by the Provisional National Defense Council to do so.

LIBERIA

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES RECALL OF ENVOY TO GHANA

AB131806 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Monrovia, 13 Jan (AFP) -- Liberia has recalled its ambassador to Ghana, David Wilson, for urgent consultations, a Foreign Ministry communique announced here today.

It gave no other details, but observers believe the move has to do with the recent decision by Ghana's new military rulers to re-establish diplomatic relations with Libya. Liberian leader Samuel Doe closed down the Libyan People's Bureau (Embassy) here last May and reduced the Soviet Embassy staff from 15 to six.

HEAD OF STATE RESPONDS TO RUMORS OF COUP PLOT

AB141924 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Head of State, CIC [Commander in Chief] Samuel K. Doe has issued a strong warning to the enemies of the revolution who attempt to use divisive tactics to discredit the PRC [People's Redemption Council] and bring unnecessary chaos to the nation by spreading baseless and unfounded rumors.

In a release from the executive mansion today, the Liberian leader stressed the complete unity and cohesiveness of the People's Redemption Council. The commander in chief was responding to rumors that certain members of the PRC were involved in a plot to overthrow the government. He indicated that one Master Sergeant Imnesto Shedi has reported this information to him. But after interrogating him carefully, he discovered that Master Sergeant (Shedi) was one such person bent on creating disharmony within the council.

The head of state noted that because of such acts on the part of Master Sergeant (Shedi) he was confined him at the port stockade for 18 months and noted that anyone caught in similar acts will be treated accordingly. He said the council is aware of the action of some elements to create disunity and discord among them. But, the head of state noted, the entire council has committed itself to maintain peace and stability, pointing out that nothing will disturb their unity of purpose. He therefore dispelled all rumors concerning a countercoup and wants to assure the Liberian people that as he has done in the past, any such action will be immediately brought to the nation's attention.

NIGERIA

AUDU DENIES NIGERIAN INVOLVEMENT IN GHANA

AB132135 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Prof Ishaya Audu, today in Lagos denied any Nigerian involvement in the current situation in Ghana. Professor Audu was speaking to the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA, NAN, following a foreign news report that British troops had arrived at Ghana's High Commission in Lagos, preparatory to an attack in Accra. The minister described the story as malicious propaganda, pointing out that Nigeria's position was clear, consistent and totally neutral.

A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA correspondent in Salisbury reported that a Zimbabwe newspaper, the HERALD, published a news story on January 11 which quoted the report from London that Britain had sent a unit of her crack SAS troops to Nigeria to help to restore the ousted civilian government in Ghana.

ANGOLA

USSR TO PROVIDE 10,000 TONS OF FUEL OIL

AB131847 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1716 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Luanda, 13 Jan (ANGOP) -- The USSR Government, in solidarity with the Angolan people, has offered the Government of the People's Republic of Angola 10,000 tons of fuel oil to help ease the difficulties resulting from the burning of the Petrangol refinery in Luanda in November, Pedro van-Dunen, Angolan oil minister said on Tuesday.

It will be recalled that following the sabotage of this refinery by mercenaries in Pretoria's pay, the Angolan Government was forced to import some petroleum products, especially fuel oil. This is why the USSR Government decided, in an internationalist action, to supply free of charge the 10,000 tons of fuel oil to the Republic of Angola.

OFFICIALS MEET WITH SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION

EA141146 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] Defense Minister Col Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, member of the party's Political Bureau, and Colonel General (Repin), head of political workers of the Soviet Armed Forces, yesterday held a meeting in Luanda.

During the meeting, the Soviet delegation presented a set of books to the general staff of FAPLA [Angolan Armed Forces], the Defense Ministry and the FAPLA Political Directorate -- the works of the great founder of the first socialist state, Vladimir Ilich Lenin -- and other Soviet works.

Present at the meeting were Lt Col Francisco Magalhaes Paiva Vunda, FAPLA national political director, and senior officers from different branches of our armed forces.

The Soviet delegation led by Colonel General (Repin) arrived in Luanda yesterday for an official and friendly visit to our country.

LESOTHO

LIBERATION ARMY ISSUES WARNING ON ELECTION

LD131208 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The rebel Lesotho Liberation Army has issued a warning that it will resume its activities if the government of Dr Leabja Jonathan does not make a positive statement by next week about organizing a free election. The warning is contained in a message handed to the office of the SOUTH AFRICA PRESS ASSOCIATION in Gaborone, Botswana. The message is signed by Ntsu Mokhehle, leader of the external wing of the army's political arm -- the opposition Basutoland Congress Party.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO COMMENTARY ON UN SOLUTION FOR NAMIBIA

EA121138 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 11 Jan 82

[SWAPO program]

[Text] Our today news commentary is on the functions and priorities of the new secretary general of the United Nations in as far as the decolonization of Namibia is concerned.

The two terms of office as secretary-general of the United Nations of Dr Kurt Waldheim has now ended and the world body is now headed by a new secretary general Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, who was unanimously chosen by the UN Security Council to be the next leader of the world body for the term of 5 years.

Mr de Cuellar has already started his duties on 1 January this year and SWAPO of Namibia congratulates him on behalf of the freedom-inspired Namibian masses for his new assignment to lead the world international community and wishing him all the strength in his endeavor.

In the same token, we would like to remind the new secretary general of the United Nations about one of the most crucial and chronical problems that has been on the agenda of the United Nations since its inception 36 years ago now. And that is the independence question of Namibia, which is the direct responsibility of the United Nations and is now being ruled by racist South Africa in defiance of the call by the world community and the oppressed Namibian people to withdraw her illegal, colonial occupation from the Namibian territory. Racist South Africa is today not only pursuing a colonial policy over the Namibian territory and peoples but is now all out in a war of genocide against the Namibian people and the neighboring independent African states, particularly the people's Republic of Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Thus, the regime, by using Namibia to launch aggressive and subversive activities against these friendly countries, is posing a serious threat to peace and security in the southern African region.

Numerous efforts have been made by the international community to persuade racist Pretoria to end her illegal colonial occupation of Namibia. But the racist regime never heeded the peaceful efforts and demands of the world community and the just demand by the Namibian people for self-determination and national independence under the leadership of their own choice.

Right now, there is a UN decolonization plan for the Namibian territory, which was initiated by the five Western members of the Security Council -- United States, United Kingdom, France, FRG and Canada. The plan was accepted by both SWAPO of Namibia and racist South Africa, the two parties on war footing over the territory. This plan calls for democratic elections in Namibia under the supervision and control of the United Nations but surprisingly, the initiators of the UN plan, the so-called Western contact group, are now engaged in an attempt to contort the entire UN decolonization plan by proposing a constitution to be drafted before elections for the safeguarding of the minority white settlers in our country and the exploitation of our country's wealth by the multinational corporations. Thus, the peace process to bring about the independence of Namibia has been freezed again by the very same states who initiated the plan.

While condoling with the oppressed people of Namibia, these very Western powers, particularly the U.S. Reagan administration, has openly decided to abandon the peace process and pursue a militaristic course by giving a friendly hand to the racist apartheid regime of Pretoria and bandit reactionary groups, such as UNITA of Jonas Savimbi and other criminal organizations, with a clear motive of creating instability in the neighboring independent African frontline states.

The resort to brute force by the U.S. administration and its client, racist South Africa, must be stopped now, before it reaches devastating proportions. The oppressed people of Namibia under the dynamic leadership of their vanguard movement, SWAPO of Namibia, want nothing less than genuine freedom and national independence through whatever means. We are not warmongers or communists, as our adversaries want to put it. What we want is freedom now and nothing else.

SWAPO of Namibia wants to assure the new secretary general of the United Nations that we are, and will remain, faithful in our cooperation with all the efforts of the international community aimed at solving the problem of our country peacefully. We are hopefully looking forward for your efforts in bringing a change in our country by introducing punitive measures that can force the apartheid regime to accept the speedy implementation of UN Resolution 435 without any further delay. The question of Namibia's declonization must be one of the first priorities of the new secretary general in order to end bloodshed and the suffering of our people. No effort must be spared this year, 1982, to bring the independence of Namibia through peaceful means, if possible.

SWAPO of Namibia also wants to remind Mr de Cuellar that in the absence of a cease-fire accord with racist South Africa, we have no other option but to intensify the armed liberation struggle inside our country in order to free our suffering people.

It is not our intention to continue with the war nor are we afraid to pursue it. But for the sake of peace, freedom and justice in our country, we call upon the new secretary general to use his good offices for the liberation of Namibia, which is the direct responsibility of the United Nations. It is our sincere hope that Mr de Ceullar will not be intoxicated by the imperialist and racist maneuvers and intrigues aimed at depriving the oppressed Namibian people of their genuine freedom and independence. We express this point because the imperialist powers and their racist ally, South Africa, are now engaged in a conspiratorial attempt to wash off the UN plan and give the semblance of recognition to the Pretoria racist so-called internal settlement plan aimed at creating a Bantustan-type of a regime in Namibia by using reactionary elements and traitors of the Namibian cause.

This diabolical scheme is unacceptable to us. We have rejected it right from the onset and we will continue rejecting it. SWAPO's position has been and is still clear that any dealing on the Namibian question should be with racist South Africa, which is the colonial power over the Namibian territory, and not with its puppets and paid stooges of the Turnhalle reactionary alliance. Therefore, we urge the new secretary general of the United Nations that the Namibian people have only one vanguard movement, SWAPO of Namibia, which is recognized by the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement and by the United Nations organizations as the sole authentic representative of the oppressed Namibian masses. For this reason, we reject any recognition or dealing with the puppet institutions and groups created by the racist South African regime to confuse and mislead our people and the world public opinion. SWAPO of Namibia will continue with the armed liberation struggle till final victory is achieved in our country, Namibia, the spirit and traditions of our ancestral fathers, we say, we will die fighting till every inch of our motherland, Namibia, is liberated from Boer colonialism. [sentence has heard] And that ends our commentary for today.

ZAMBIA

PAPER ASKS OAU ACTION IF LIBYA INVOLVED IN GHANA

AB131450 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 13 Jan 82

[Text] Lusaka, 13 Jan (AFP) -- The Zambia DAILY MAIL today called on the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to forbid Libya from holding the OAU summit this year if Tripoli is found to have been involved in the recent military coup in Ghana.

The government-owned newspaper said in its comment that it was suspicious and inclined to believe that Tripoli could have had a hand in the coup.

The newspaper said that Libya's aid to the new government and the speedy resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries indeed lends credence to reports that eight men involved in the coup were trained in Libya and returned to Ghana with smuggled weapons. The paper stated: The OAU should not allow Libya to interfere in the affairs of other member-states and at the same time allow (Libyan leader) Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to host this year's summit in Tripoli and consequently take over the chairmanship from Kenya's Daniel arap Moi.

ZIMBABWE

VISITING NUJOMA ACCUSES U.S. OF 'INTRANSIGENCE'

CA141216 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 14 Jan 82

[Text] The president of the South-West Africa People's Organization [SWAPO] Comrade Nujoma, briefed the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, on the progress of the armed struggle in Namibia when the two leaders met in Salisbury today. Comrade Nujoma, who arrived in Salisbury this morning, told a news conference at the airport before his departure that political and diplomatic developments in Namibia are some of the issues they discussed. He said that SWAPO is encouraged by the reaffirmation of diplomatic, material, moral and political support by the prime minister to the struggling people of Namibia. Comrade Nujoma said that friendship and contact with the Government of Zimbabwe has been renewed.

On the latest proposals for a settlement in Namibia by the Western five, Comrade Nujoma said SWAPO's response will be made known once consultations with the frontline states have been completed. Comrade Nujoma said the Western five were dishonoring the United Nations Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia in their efforts to please the racist regime. He also accused the Reagan administration of intransigence in its support for the Pretoria regime, saying President Reagan is on record as having said that southern Africa [as heard] has vital raw material for America's nuclear production.